



STANDARDS *and* TRADE
DEVELOPMENT FACILITY

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING FRAMEWORK (2025 – 2030) ¹

STANDARDS AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT FACILITY

¹ This MEL Framework updates the previous STDF MEL Framework developed under the STDF Strategy for 2020–2024. It was prepared by the STDF Secretariat in close collaboration with the STDF MEL Group and approved by the STDF Working Group in 2025. This final Word document is being shared pending finalization of the formatted and designed version.

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Other STDF Working Group members provided inputs to the MEL Framework via consultations during meetings. MEL Group members met three times online from May to October 2025, providing insights, inputs and written comments on all aspects of the document, including the Results Matrix indicators and enhanced MEL processes. The draft revised MEL Framework was presented and discussed during the STDF Working Group meeting in November 2025, prior to its approval.

ACRONYMS

AfT	Aid for Trade
AI	Artificial Intelligence
BI	Business Intelligence
COMTRADE	United Nations International Trade Statistics Database
DCE	Developing Country Expert
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FfD4	4 th Financing for Development Conference
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
ITC	International Trade Centre
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
ODA	Overseas Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OIO	Office of Internal Oversight
PG	Project Grant
PPG	Project Preparation Grant
PSEA	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
RASFF	Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
SCA	Standards Compliance Analytics
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-bound
SNA	Social Network Analysis
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
STDF	Standards and Trade Development Facility
ToC	Theory of Change
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNCTAD	United Nations Trade and Development
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
US	United States
VfM	Value for Money
WBG	World Bank Group
WG	Working Group
WHO	World Health Organization
WOAH	World Organisation for Animal Health
WTO	World Trade Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This MEL Framework accompanies the STDF Strategy for 2025-2030 *"Facilitating Safe Trade to Meet the Global Goals"*. It builds on the MEL Framework covering the previous strategy period. It remains practical while introducing meaningful process and Results Matrix updates that link directly to the STDF Strategy for 2025-2030 and its Theory of Change (ToC). The MEL system will monitor progress over time by validating the causal links within the ToC and by gathering credible evidence of STDF's contribution to results at multiple levels, both intended and unintended.

A focus on contribution analysis will continue to guide the STDF MEL Framework. Rather than seeking attribution, the MEL system will build a clear, evidence-based narrative of plausible contribution that demonstrates how STDF activities support broader SPS and trade outcomes. This approach will also help identify where the evidence of contribution is strong and where further learning or adaptive adjustment is needed. This recognizes that complex development outcomes, such as safe trade facilitation, are influenced by many actors and external factors. Instead of trying to isolate and measure cause and effect in a strict experimental sense, contribution analysis examines whether there is credible evidence that the intervention played a meaningful role in bringing about the changes observed.

The overarching objective is to assess cumulative progress over time, using this analysis to inform learning and adaptation so that the STDF can enhance its effectiveness and better fulfil its strategic goals. Evaluations, particularly ex-post project evaluations, will play a central role in this learning cycle. With this in mind, a cost-effective increase in the regularity of ex-post evaluations will be an important update from the previous MEL Framework. Many results only materialize after project completion. By systematically capturing these through more evaluations, the MEL system will provide a more complete picture of impact and sustainability.

High-level impact assessment, at the end-of-strategy external evaluation, as well as ex-post project evaluations, will build on recognized scientific and policy evidence, showing how the STDF's contributions align with global objectives such as those under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For example, the Strategy notes that unsafe food causes an estimated US\$110 billion in productivity losses annually. While the STDF cannot directly measure its share of such global change, it can demonstrate plausible contribution by showing how its projects and knowledge products strengthen the causal pathways leading to safer food trade. This includes, for instance, measurable evidence of sustained SPS improvements or changes in interceptions, rejections and/or SPS non-compliance alerts/notifications.

The 2025 STDF Scaling Case Study provides valuable insights on how such contributions can be scaled and the MEL Framework integrates lessons from that work. Further details on how scaling is operationalized within the MEL Framework, including indicators, methods, and learning mechanisms, are provided in the main body of this document.

This MEL Framework recognizes that while targets are always a useful means of tracking progress, they should not become objectives in themselves. In line with the Strategy, targets will remain closely tied to the ToC and will serve as means to an end, not as standalone goals. Quality, therefore, is a guiding principle to be embedded across the MEL system, reflecting the Strategy's emphasis on learning, relevance, and meaningful measurement.

The MEL Framework will also extend its focus to include implementer capacity appraisal. MEL guidance and templates will be further strengthened to ensure that projects are designed with clear ToCs that articulate their pathways to scale and impact, and that they meaningfully integrate cross-cutting priorities such as environment, climate resilience, gender and inclusion where possible. This foundation is essential for effective monitoring and credible reporting downstream.

New indicators will capture the strategic shifts introduced under the 2025–2030 Strategy, including benefits to the private sector, stronger regional collaboration, gender equality, environmental externalities, and scaling of successful innovations.

Finally, the MEL Framework will reinforce annual reporting through contribution analysis, using a cumulative, evidence-based narrative that evolves over time. Each year's "harvest" of results, from projects, studies, evaluations and learning activities, will add to a growing body of evidence, progressively strengthening the story of STDF's impact and contribution to safer trade and inclusive growth.

Summary of Updates from Previous MEL Framework

The STDF Strategy 2025–2030 calls for a systematic, transparent and learning-oriented MEL system, supported by digital tools and stronger governance. The updated MEL Framework strengthens accountability, improves data quality and aligns reporting processes with a more robust results-based management approach.

Efforts will be made to improve the consistency and timeliness of project reporting. Inception reports will ensure every project establishes clear baselines and logframes, while progress reporting will be supported by earlier reminders, risk monitoring, and MEL clinics to improve punctuality. Final project reporting will be streamlined, with clearer expectations on timing and content. Ex-post impact evaluations will cost effectively cover a larger share of completed projects, while lessons and recommendations will be more systematically used to guide decisions and scaling.

Systemic improvements will also enhance MEL infrastructure and tools. The web-based MEL platform will be reconfigured to reflect the new MEL design and indicators are refined and expanded to measure sustained impact, inclusion and scaling, supported by clear definitions and alignment with related STDF thematic action plans. Part of implementing this MEL Framework during the Strategy cycle will be to develop a Risk and Issues Management System to track key risks, their likelihood, impact, probability and management strategies (reduce, prevent, transfer, accept and contain) including risk owners and escalation channels.

Overall, these updates mark a transition towards a more integrated and evidence-based MEL system that links accountability, learning and performance to drive measurable, scalable results.

Why MEL matters

The MEL Framework brings a results-driven approach to managing the STDF's programme throughout the 2025–2030 Strategy. It offers a clear lens to evaluate how the STDF's global partnership delivers tangible outcomes and drives meaningful change in Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) capacity to support safe trade. At the same time, it fosters continuous learning around innovative, collaborative solutions in SPS capacity development and highlights critical connections with cross-cutting issues like gender equality and the environment to enhance both performance and long-term impact. The MEL Framework is also crucial to track the Strategy's focus on innovation and scaling, as well as regional links and engagement with the private sector.

STDF's Theory of Change

The ToC in the STDF Strategy for 2025–2030 charts a clear pathway for how meaningful change will be achieved and serves as the foundation of the STDF's MEL Framework. This framework maps STDF's contributions to broader, long-term impacts, including progress toward key SDGs and the promotion of safe trade. While direct attribution is focused up to and including the outcomes, the MEL Framework follows the ripple effects of STDF's work as far as possible, connecting actions to real-world impacts.



Purpose

1. Strengthen Accountability: Regularly generate evidence to demonstrate the results and outcomes achieved with the resources invested to implement the STDF Strategy for 2025–2030.
2. Foster Learning and Innovation: Deepen understanding of how the STDF's work sparks transformative SPS improvements in developing countries and promotes safe trade, while also highlighting innovative, inclusive and cross-cutting approaches at scale that lead to increased and sustained SPS capacity of public and private sector stakeholders in developing countries.

Audience

- Members of the STDF Working Group and Policy Committee
- Organizations implementing STDF projects, donors and other stakeholders involved in SPS capacity development and Aid for Trade (AfT)
- STDF stakeholders (target groups/project participants)
- STDF Secretariat

APPROACH

Strategic and Practical Orientation

- Practical and fit-for-purpose approach, designed to be simple, cost-effective and efficient with active involvement of Working Group members to ensure relevance and feasibility.
- Reflects the STDF's uniqueness as a multi-partner, multi-sector facility operating at global, regional and national levels, with a small sphere of control but a wide sphere of influence.
- Takes into account the demand-driven nature of STDF's interventions and the need for flexibility to respond to emerging needs.

Measurement and Learning

- Accountability and learning: ensures accountability by tracking performance and promotes continuous learning from both quantitative results and qualitative insights.
- Mixed-methods evaluation combining ex-post impact assessments, quantitative data, and qualitative case studies to capture the STDF's contribution to the ToC.
- Refined and/or new indicators introducing improved metrics and set targets to measure long-term impact and scaling of SPS capacity efforts.
- Expanded scope of measurement on domestic benefits, including benefits to the private sector.

Inclusion and Cross-Cutting Themes

- Integrates tracking of outcomes related to gender equality, environment, biodiversity and climate change.
- Focus on measuring and encouraging the mainstreaming of scaling in line with the Working Group's endorsed STDF Scaling Case Study recommendations.

Implementation and Support

- Ensures industry-standard safeguarding considerations at project implementation level.
- Digital integration through the web-based MEL platform to engage partners in collaborative monitoring and evaluation.
- Project/Project Preparation Grant (PG/PPG) implementing partners' capacity development through:
 - online learning tools
 - practical guidance for effective MEL application

Key Risks²

- Political or security instability in partner countries could hinder project delivery.
- Low engagement from developing country stakeholders may reduce the relevance and uptake of STDF activities.
- Insufficient financial, human or time resources could limit the delivery of the Strategy.
- Limited member participation may weaken coordination and shared ownership of results.
- Low capacity or interest to sustain results could reduce long-term impact after project completion.
- Global or economic crises (such as pandemics or future shocks) may disrupt implementation.
- Emerging SPS and climate-related risks may impact the ability to sustain results after project completion.
- Lack of resources for scaling innovations may constrain wider uptake of successful SPS models.

Assumptions

- External stability: The global and national political, economic, and environmental context will remain sufficiently stable to enable effective implementation of the Strategy, without major shocks (e.g. conflict, economic crises, pandemics, or climate-related disruptions).
- Global public good: Increased SPS capacity is a global public good that benefits from cooperation of public/private organizations across agriculture, health, trade and development sectors particularly given ongoing reductions in traditional overseas development assistance (ODA).³
- Adequate resourcing: Donor contributions to the STDF Trust Fund will meet the US\$50 million target (about US\$8.3 million annually) to deliver the Strategy 2025 - 2030.
- Knowledge sharing: Relevance and value of sharing experiences and lessons learned across different areas of SPS capacity.
- Collaboration: Organizations co-financing and/or delivering SPS capacity development recognize the value of cooperation, and are prepared to invest the necessary resources and time.
- Catalytic: Members of STDF's partnership are catalysts for change and influence SPS capacity development globally.
- Scaling of innovations: Pilots and knowledge products will yield results that can be adapted and scaled across regions and sectors.

Results Matrix

- Sets out the key elements of the intervention logic and expected cause-effect relationships across the STDF's outputs, outcomes, programme goal and broader impact.
- Enables the MEL Framework to be operationalized through the inclusion of key indicators, target data, sources and methods, measurement units and frequency, linkages to the different STDF workstreams, definitions, etc.

Delivery

- The STDF Secretariat leads implementation of the MEL Framework, working with organizations implementing STDF projects/PPGs and the STDF "MEL Group" of interested Working Group members.
- The STDF Secretariat reports regularly on MEL to the Working Group, which oversees delivery, including resource allocations.
- The web-based MEL platform will continue to promote innovation and improvements on MEL.

² As identified in the STDF Strategy 2025-2030

³ OECD predicts up to 17% drop in ODA in 2025, https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/2025/06/cuts-in-official-development-assistance_e161f0c5/full-report.html

1. Introduction

1. This MEL Framework accompanies the STDF Strategy for 2025-2030 "*Facilitating Safe Trade to Meet the Global Goals*", which provides the backbone for MEL. It consolidates and deepens STDF's increased focus on MEL in the STDF Strategy. Building on the recommendations of the 2024 External Evaluation⁴, it places greater emphasis on monitoring, and on ensuring that results and impacts are better measured and targeted. This includes better tracking of improved access to market and private sector benefits while further addressing cross-cutting issues. At the same time, similar to the previous MEL Framework, this framework aims to be simple, practical and cost-effective. It assesses areas within STDF's influence and reach by tracking results under the STDF's programme goal and two outcomes, based on the ToC. This ensures a focus on measuring outcomes and pathways to change, with related learning, as well as accounting for completed activities and outputs.

2. The MEL Framework uses a results-based approach to guide the planning, implementation, evaluation and reporting of STDF's work under its 2025–2030 Strategy. Designed to reflect the unique character of STDF, the framework is intentionally providing a simple, practical system to demonstrate progress and capture learning across STDF's programme. Recognizing the STDF's broad sphere of influence but limited direct control, the framework is tailored to fit its identity as a multi-partner, multi-sector platform working across global, regional, and national levels. It also takes into account STDF's large number of small, demand-driven initiatives and the need for flexibility to respond to evolving priorities.

Core Objectives

3. The MEL Framework strikes a deliberate balance between accountability and learning, with the following core objectives:

- (i) Strengthen Accountability: Regularly generate evidence to demonstrate the results and outcomes achieved with the resources invested to implement the STDF Strategy for 2025–2030.
- (ii) Foster Learning and Innovation: Deepen understanding of how the STDF's work sparks transformative SPS improvements in developing countries and promotes safe trade, while also highlighting innovative, inclusive and cross-cutting approaches that lead to increased and sustained SPS capacity of public and private sector stakeholders in developing countries at scale.

Operational Improvement & Data Use

4. The MEL Framework supports continuous improvement by monitoring the effectiveness of STDF's operations, including the uptake of knowledge products, the impact of trainings and events, and the strength of partnerships. The continued use of the web-based MEL platform will improve the quality of data collected and strengthen MEL practices. It will support more timely, transparent and high-quality reporting, facilitate the identification of innovation and best practice, and enable evidence-based decision-making.

Collaborative Design Process

5. The MEL Framework was developed through an inclusive and consultative process. Between May and November 2025, the STDF Secretariat convened a series of virtual meetings with the STDF MEL Group, comprising interested partners, donors, developing country experts, and other stakeholders. This collaborative effort helped shape a coherent and fit-for-purpose MEL framework which will enable the STDF to minimize the need for separate performance formats for different stakeholders and donors, thereby streamlining reporting and enhancing efficiency.

6. The MEL Framework's primary audience comprises members of the STDF Working Group and Policy Committee, organizations implementing STDF projects and PPGs, current and prospective donors, and other stakeholders involved in SPS capacity building and/or Aid for Trade at national, regional and global levels, including project target groups and the STDF Secretariat.

⁴ External Evaluation of The Standards and Trade Development Facility, 2024, https://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/2024-06/STDF_evaluation_report_Final_PEC_May_2024.pdf

7. The primary audience for learning and results is higher-level stakeholders, including founding partners, donors, senior decision-makers within the partnership, and leadership in public and private sector organizations involved in or benefiting from STDF projects and PPGs. This upward focus ensures shared learning flows to those in positions to influence strategy and policy, while also meeting donor accountability requirements by clearly showing the distinct and credible contribution the STDF makes to building sustainable SPS capacity and facilitating safe trade in developing countries. At the same time, through the STDF's global partnership, knowledge work, and projects and PPGs, learning on what works in SPS capacity development will continue to deepen, strengthening collaboration and insight-sharing among diverse stakeholders at country, regional, and global levels.

8. Assessing the impact of the STDF involves determining how credibly the STDF can claim to have contributed to stronger and more sustainable SPS capacity and safer trade in developing countries. This approach does not aim to deliver absolute proof of impact. Instead, it builds a compelling, evidence-based case that allows us to reasonably conclude, with a fair degree of confidence, that the STDF has played a meaningful role in achieving the documented outcomes. It is about making a strong, plausible argument for the value added by the STDF partnership in driving safe and inclusive trade.

2. Context

9. The launch of the STDF Strategy 2025–2030 coincides with a critical juncture in global development. With less than five years remaining to achieve the UN SDGs, progress is off-track. Only 17% of targets are currently on track, while food insecurity, poverty, and inequality are rising, particularly in least developed countries (LDCs).⁵ In this challenging global context, the ability to facilitate safe, inclusive and sustainable trade has never been more important.

10. The OECD projects a 9–17% drop in net official development assistance (ODA) in 2025, following a 9% decline in 2024. The projected decline is driven by announced cuts from major providers, and it would hit the poorest countries hardest: bilateral ODA to LDCs and sub-Saharan Africa may fall by 13–25% and 16–28% respectively, and health funding could drop by up to 60% from its 2022 peak. Coordinated, transparent action is urgently needed to mitigate the consequences of cuts in ODA for the poorest and most vulnerable populations.⁶

11. The Outcome Document of the 4th Financing for Development Conference (FfD4), held in Seville in 2025, stated that "Despite significant efforts by the international community to respond to recent multiple interlinked global challenges, the gap between our sustainable development aspirations and financing to meet them has continued to widen, particularly in developing countries reaching an estimated US\$4 trillion annually." FfD4 also called for a scaling up of AfT, especially for LDCs, and commitments to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of AfT provided.⁷

12. For small-scale farmers, producers, traders, and governments in developing and LDCs, the ability to meet international standards for food safety, and animal and plant health is critical. It opens doors to regional and global markets for food and agriculture products, unlocking opportunities to add value along supply chains and drive more inclusive growth, especially for women, youth, and small businesses. This, in turn, boosts employment, raises incomes, and strengthens livelihoods. At the same time, investing in strong SPS systems helps protect the environment, safeguard biodiversity, and enhance countries' resilience to climate change, laying the groundwork for a more sustainable and secure future.⁸

13. Over the past 20 years, the STDF has evolved into a global catalyst for SPS innovation, bringing together partners across sectors to pilot solutions, share knowledge, and drive results. Its global

⁵ See Page 4, The UN Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024, <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2024/>

⁶ See Page 1, OECD Policy Brief, Cuts in ODA, 2025,

https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/cuts-in-official-development-assistance_8c530629-en.html

⁷ FfD4 2025, Outcome Document, page 4 and 24,

<https://financing.desa.un.org/sites/default/files/ffd4-documents/2025/Compromiso%20de%20Sevilla%20for%20action%2016%20June.pdf>

⁸ STDF Strategy 2025-2030, Page 11, https://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/2025-03/STDF_strategy_2025-2030_Eng.pdf

platform, grant mechanism, and knowledge work complement each other in creating scalable models of safe trade. As the only dedicated partnership that bridges agriculture, health, trade and development to tackle SPS barriers, STDF is uniquely positioned to accelerate progress where it is needed most. According to the 2025 STDF Scaling Case Study: *"The STDF achieves results and influence beyond what would typically be expected for its modest budget and scaling is a key enabler of this outsized impact."*

14. The STDF remains strongly aligned to the WTO SPS Agreement and SPS Committee, recognizing the STDF's role in facilitating safe trade in agri-food products. Safe trade facilitation means trade that is in line with the WTO SPS Agreement, protecting health while keeping transaction costs as low as possible. The WTO SPS Agreement seeks to ensure health protection, while avoiding unnecessary barriers to trade. It sets out the basic rules on food safety and animal and plant health standards that governments are required to follow. All countries maintain measures to ensure that food is safe for consumers, and to prevent the spread of pests or diseases among animals and plants. These SPS measures can take many forms, such as requiring products to come from a disease-free area, inspection of products, specific treatment or processing of products, setting of allowable maximum levels of pesticide residues or permitted use of only certain additives in food.⁹

15. The independent evaluation of the STDF in 2024 confirmed that STDF has delivered tangible impacts across regions, from helping farmers in Burkina Faso reduce maize contamination, to supporting Viet Nam's fruit exports to new markets. However, it also highlighted areas to improve, particularly around measuring long-term outcomes, capturing gender and environmental impacts, and tracking knowledge uptake. These insights directly inform the design of this MEL Framework.

16. The global SPS landscape is growing more complex. New SPS risks, an evolving and fragmented regulatory environment, new non-tariff measures, regional integration and digitalization are reshaping agri-food trade. At the same time, climate change and informal markets pose increasing challenges. The MEL Framework must help the STDF and its partners track how well its work responds to these emerging dynamics and strengthens systems in a holistic, future-facing way.

17. The Strategy 2025–2030 places strong emphasis on mainstreaming gender, environment, biodiversity and climate change across all workstreams. The MEL Framework plays a central role in operationalising this by tracking outcomes that matter most to vulnerable groups, particularly women and informal actors, and by showing how SPS investments can also deliver environmental and climate benefits.

18. Women in developing countries are heavily involved in agricultural production and trade. For instance, women account for up to 50% of farmers in Africa and 70% of informal cross-border traders. Agriculture is also the main source of employment for Africa's rural youth, characterized mainly by subsistence activities. Although there is limited research available on the gender dimensions of SPS compliance, evidence suggests that women experience greater disadvantages than men in accessing the skills and productive resources needed to comply with SPS measures. For instance, research from Africa and Southeast Asia shows that female traders pay higher taxes than their male counterparts, are delayed longer than men by quarantine issues at border crossings, spend more on transportation just to get through the border crossing, and face high levels of procedural obstacles and harassment at borders.¹⁰

19. The MEL Framework provides a tool for accountability, learning and ongoing improvement. By tracking results from STDF's workstreams and by generating evidence of what works (and what does not), the MEL Framework enables better decision-making, stronger accountability, and improved sharing of good practices across countries and regions.

20. STDF's wide partnership structure, including public institutions, private sector actors, international organizations, and developing country experts, adds significant value. The MEL Framework is designed to reflect this diversity, capturing progress across different spheres of influence and aligning with the roles, expectations, and capacities of stakeholders involved in delivering safe trade solutions.

⁹ *ibid*, Page 10,

¹⁰ STDF Gender Action Plan, 2023, Page 7,

https://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_Gender_Action_Plan_E_final.pdf

21. Ultimately, the MEL Framework supports the delivery of STDF's Strategy 2025–2030 by offering a clear structure to measure progress against its vision: sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction, food security, and resilience to climate change through safe trade. As STDF continues to convene, innovate, learn and catalyse change, the MEL Framework ensures that the Facility remains accountable, evidence-driven and adaptive to meet the challenges of the next five years.

3. STDF's Theory of Change

22. Against this context, the STDF's global partnership drives catalytic SPS improvements in developing countries that facilitate safe trade, contributing to the SDGs related to sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction, food security and resilience to climate change. The Theory of Change in the Strategy outlines the pathway through which change will be achieved. It sets out the intervention logic and provides the backbone of the MEL Framework.

23. The Theory of Change offers a flexible, evolving tool that will be revisited during the implementation of the Strategy, especially with a view to promote learning. Given the complexity and interlinked nature of SPS interventions, it will be possible to demonstrate attribution for results below the Programme Goal. Changes at higher impact levels will reflect the programme's contribution rather than its sole effect. This generative approach to causality, rather than a counterfactual one, will be applied primarily through project evaluations, evaluations of the STDF programme as a whole, and relevant donor-led Aid-for-Trade evaluations. This approach reflects the relatively small size of the STDF, and the need for MEL to be practical and cost-effective.

24. The needs and issues faced in strengthening SPS capacity are so complex, wide-ranging and challenging that no individual institution, government or other stakeholder can do it alone. Achieving increased and sustainable SPS capacity in developing countries depends on many capabilities across agriculture, health, trade and sustainable development. It also relies on facilitating interactions and coordination across diverse organizations at a global, regional and national level. The pathways to change are sometimes uncertain. This makes it essential to capitalize on the roles and competencies across international organizations, standard-setting bodies, regional organizations, bilateral donors, the private sector and other stakeholders that provide financing and/or technical and operational expertise for SPS improvements.

25. One of the key assumptions behind the STDF is that there are benefits to be gained through collaboration. The STDF's multi-stakeholder partnership involves diverse organizations from different sectors working together, sharing risks and combining their unique resources and competencies in ways that can generate and maximize value towards the STDF's Programme Goal, as well as the goals of individual partner objectives. Convening and connecting diverse organizations involved in various aspects of SPS capacity development creates opportunities to share and learn from each other's experiences, to reduce duplication and gaps, and to promote a more coherent approach to SPS capacity development. In the process, this partnership catalyses opportunities to leverage expertise and resources, to scale-up innovative approaches across sectors and regions, and ultimately to achieve more and better results together, than would be possible alone. The power of the STDF comes from the unique roles and competencies of its members, the sharing of information and the complementary resources the members each bring to the table.

26. The STDF Strategy for 2025- 2030 focuses STDF's work on three workstreams: i) its global platform; ii) knowledge work; and iii) project and project preparation grants. This enables the STDF to deliver two key outcomes where the STDF partnership can create added-value for its members, as well as target groups/project participants in developing and least developed countries.

Outcome 1: Increased uptake of SPS good practices and knowledge products at national, regional and global level

Outcome 2: Catalytic SPS improvements at national, regional and global level driven by STDF's partnership

27. Achieving these two outcomes contributes to increased and sustained SPS capacity of public and private sector stakeholders in developing countries (STDF's Programme Goal). This will in turn facilitate safe trade (i.e. trade that ensures health protection, while minimizing transaction costs), contributing to the SDGs.

28. Increased and sustained SPS capacity is based on the ability to meet the standards of the three international standard-setting bodies recognized in the WTO's SPS Agreement – the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). It includes knowledge, skills and competencies to perform SPS management functions, solve SPS problems and set and achieve SPS objectives in a sustainable manner.

29. The World Bank Group's (WBG) hierarchy of trade-related SPS management functions includes six key attributes of capacity across the public and private sectors. These include capacity to develop and implement legislation and regulations, policies and strategies, structures and processes that are necessary to ensure food safety and the protection of animal and plant health for safe trade. Capacity attributes at the different levels are inter-related and tend to reinforce each other. Weaknesses in one area are likely to have a negative impact on other areas.¹¹ The STDF's Theory of Change recognizes that while meeting standards is essential, other attributes also need to be in place to facilitate access to markets (e.g. infrastructure, transportation, financing, etc.).

30. Strengthening SPS capacity in developing countries and LDCs relies on a multitude of factors and contexts, often involves uncertainty as to the link between causes and effects, and is influenced by multiple actors, perspectives and relationships. SPS capacity depends on functioning systems, processes, competencies and skills across different government agencies, and the private sector, as well as coordination and networks between them. It depends on the commitment and engagement of diverse stakeholders to change their practices. This includes institutions and officials in developing country and LDC governments, as well as regional and global organizations that have a role to play in SPS capacity development.

31. STDF's unique value proposition creates potential for the STDF's relatively small programme, in terms of financing, to have a much greater influence and reach thanks to the number and type of stakeholders engaged in the partnership. This is echoed in the findings of the 2025 STDF Scaling Case Study. This study highlights that the STDF prioritizes the development of transformative capacity and helping other organizations scale, as opposed to directly implementing projects at a large scale.

32. Achieving the STDF Strategy's two outcomes will depend on the commitment and willingness of members to come together to exchange and share their expertise, to contribute to joint projects and knowledge work for the greater good, and to effectively mobilize their colleagues and networks, including to support scaling and more transformational change. It also depends on them having adequate resources (including time) to devote to STDF work on an ongoing basis. Similarly, the magnitude of achievement of the two outcomes may also change over time, depending on variations in financial contributions to the trust fund.

Assumptions underlying the STDF's Theory of Change

- Increased SPS capacity is a global public good that benefits from engagement and cooperation of diverse (public and private sector) organizations across agriculture, health, trade and development sectors particularly given the global reduction of overall ODA.
- Adequate resourcing – Donor and partner contributions to the STDF Trust Fund will meet the US\$50 million target (about US\$8.3 million annually) to deliver the Strategy.
- Relevance and value of sharing experiences and lessons learned across different areas of SPS capacity.
- Organizations co-financing and/or delivering SPS capacity development recognize the value of cooperation, and are prepared to invest the necessary resources and time.
- Members of STDF's partnership are catalysts for change and influence SPS capacity development globally.
- Replicability and scaling of innovations – Pilots and knowledge products will yield results that can be adapted and scaled across regions and sectors.

¹¹ World Bank Group, Food Safety and Agricultural Health Standards Challenges and Opportunities for Developing Country Exports, 2005, Page 129, <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/618321468780553085/pdf/31207.pdf>

Focus on Contribution Analysis

33. As with the previous STDF MEL Framework, the contribution analysis approach offers a structured way to understand and explain how an STDF intervention contributes to broader outcomes without claiming direct causality. This approach is particularly useful in complex systems where many factors and actors interact to influence change. Rather than proving that one intervention alone caused a specific result, contribution analysis seeks to develop a credible and evidence-based account of how the intervention has plausibly influenced outcomes within this wider context.

34. By focusing on contribution rather than attribution, this approach acknowledges the shared responsibility for outcomes in complex development environments, such as the facilitation of safe trade. It provides a more realistic and nuanced understanding of how STDF's work interacts with that of other stakeholders and contextual factors to produce results. Ultimately, contribution analysis strengthens learning by helping stakeholders see not only whether change occurred, but also how and why it did so, supporting more informed decisions and continuous improvement.

35. In practical terms, contribution analysis will be integrated into existing MEL activities rather than added as a separate process. Project design templates will ask proponents to articulate contribution pathways; project evaluations will assess evidence of contribution to higher-level outcomes; and synthesis studies will aggregate findings across projects to assess how the STDF portfolio as a whole contributes to broader SPS and trade facilitation goals.

36. Over time, this will help the STDF build a cumulative, evidence-based narrative showing not only what has changed, but how its collective work, partnerships and knowledge-sharing activities have plausibly contributed to safer trade outcomes. It will also encourage more adaptive learning, helping identify where to strengthen interventions or gather better evidence in future.

Focus on Scaling: Definition and Practical Integration into MEL

37. In the STDF context, scaling refers to facilitating the adoption, expansion, and sustainability of successful SPS solutions so that they meaningfully reduce unsafe trade beyond the direct support of the STDF. It is not about doing more projects or simply replicating activities, but about ensuring that effective approaches influence systems, policies and practices at a broader level. Scaling is therefore an expression of the STDF's catalytic mandate, supporting others to adopt and institutionalize what works, so that safe trade outcomes endure.

"The STDF's vision, goal, and strategy align with scaling, making it a de facto scaling organization." Mainstreaming Scaling Initiative Case Studies, STDF, Charlotte Coogan, Scaling Community of Practice, October 2025, Page 25

38. In the STDF context, scaling has several dimensions: scaling out (replication to new target groups or countries), scaling up (institutional embedding or policy integration) and scaling deep (changes within systems, values and norms). This reinforces scaling as a learning-driven and context-sensitive process rather than a linear increase in outputs.

39. Mainstreaming scaling means embedding this focus across all aspects of the partnership's work rather than treating it as an isolated ambition. It requires defining realistic pathways for uptake, influence, and institutionalisation and ensuring that evidence, incentives, and processes encourage a culture of learning for scale. Scaling success within the STDF is not measured by attribution or size alone, but by credible evidence that STDF-supported innovations have contributed to sustained and system-wide change in SPS capacity and trade safety.

40. To integrate scaling into the MEL Framework, refined indicators are proposed to better measure uptake, replication, institutional embedding as well as resources leveraged to enable scaling of piloted STDF innovations and approaches. Because scaling often happens years after interventions, the updated framework introduces a new indicator to report on sustained SPS improvements in developing countries, captured through ex-post evaluation data. This will allow for better identification of successful drivers of scaling.

41. Embedding scaling into MEL also involves reflection and learning. Regular analysis of scaling evidence, through project portfolio reviews and Working Group/partner discussions, can identify where contributions to broader outcomes are strongest and where assumptions need revisiting.

42. By integrating scaling metrics and narratives into evaluation and reporting, the STDF will be able to demonstrate how its catalytic role drives sustained SPS improvements and safe trade outcomes over time.

43. Overall, the Results Matrix reflects scaling not as a one-off result but as a dynamic process connecting STDF's project-level innovations with system-wide change. By embedding scaling indicators, methods (ex-post evaluation, aggregation, learning loops), and definitions within the MEL Framework, STDF positions scaling as a central feature of how it measures catalytic influence on safe trade outcomes.

4. Cross-cutting issues

44. STDF's efforts in mainstreaming cross-cutting issues, including climate change, the environment, gender equality, inclusiveness (youth and other vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities and indigenous communities), will now be measured throughout different levels of the ToC. This enables mainstreaming to be addressed in a way that is relevant and feasible, while keeping in mind the uniqueness and size of the STDF programme. It provides the basis to mainstream these issues more systematically across the STDF's global platform, knowledge work, and projects and PPGs, covering both substantive and operational aspects. In addition, it will help to tease out and clarify the linkages between these issues and SPS capacity development, which will generate new knowledge that can further inform and strengthen other work.

Gender

45. The 2024 STDF Programme Evaluation recognizes that the STDF's External Assessment of Gender Mainstreaming¹² and Gender Action Plan¹³ were important milestones that strengthened understanding of gender in the SPS context. However, while implementation had begun, the evaluation found that systematic integration into projects and knowledge work was still at an early stage. Gender considerations were often limited to counting female participation rather than analysing gendered impacts or structural inequalities. The report notes that further work is needed to embed gender sensitivity into project design and MEL systems.

46. The STDF Gender Action Plan provides the foundation for aligning gender equality and women's empowerment into the MEL Framework. It sets out a structured approach built around three pillars: raising awareness, strengthening gender integration in projects, and building institutional capacity, to ensure that gender is considered at every stage of STDF's work. STDF work will pay attention to the role of women as small-scale farmers, processors and workers in agri-food value chains and cross-border traders, as well as the gender sensitivity of SPS policies, regulatory processes and measures.

47. The MEL Framework will operationalize this through disaggregated indicators, and targeted learning processes that capture the differentiated experiences and outcomes for women and men. By embedding these elements, the MEL Framework will help demonstrate how the STDF's support contributes to more inclusive SPS systems and equitable participation in safe trade.

Environment

48. The STDF Programme Evaluation notes that environmental benefits have occurred in projects, for example reduced pesticide use or improved waste management, but that these could be tracked more systematically. In response, the STDF's Environment Mainstreaming Action Plan (2025–2030)¹⁴ will provide the foundation for alignment with the MEL Framework. The approach focuses on two pillars: (i) building awareness and knowledge across the partnership; and (ii) embedding environmental considerations throughout the project cycle. Practical tools such as an environment checklist, marker system and updated project templates will enable consistent tracking of environmental integration and outcomes.

¹² External Assessment of Gender Mainstreaming in STDF'S work
https://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_Gender_Assessment_Report.pdf

¹³ STDF Gender Action Plan
https://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_Gender_Action_Plan_E_final.pdf

¹⁴ The STDF Environment Mainstreaming Action Plan (2025–2030) is being finalized at the time of writing <https://www.standardsfacility.org/good-practice-articles>.

49. The MEL system will collect evidence on how STDF supported initiatives generate co-benefits for the environment, including reduced risks to biodiversity, enhanced climate adaptation, and more sustainable SPS systems. This approach ensures that the STDF's monitoring and evaluation processes reflect its commitment to inclusive safe trade facilitation that also delivers environmental benefits, consistent with global agendas on climate action and biodiversity conservation.

50. Gender, inclusivity, and environment are more systematically mainstreamed in the Results Matrix that accompanies this MEL Framework. The matrix reflects lessons from the 2024 evaluation and the STDF Gender and Environment Action Plans by embedding these cross-cutting themes across all levels of the results chain. This will be discussed in more depth later.

5. Risk management

51. Ongoing efforts will be made to manage identified risks that may affect the delivery and sustainability of the STDF, as well as to proactively identify any new or emerging risks faced. Below are the risks as identified in the STDF Strategy 2025–2030.

Key risks

Risk	Likelihood	Mitigation Strategy
Limited interest of developing country stakeholders in STDF's work	Low	Ongoing efforts will be made to ensure that STDF work remains relevant and targeted to the SPS needs of developing countries, building on key issues raised at relevant meetings organized by STDF partners and others. Complementary efforts will be undertaken to share good practices, knowledge products and information on funding opportunities to promote uptake and use by developing country stakeholders.
Inadequate resources (including financial, human resources, time) to deliver STDF's Strategy	Medium	Relationships with existing and new donors will be actively nurtured to ensure contributions to the Trust Fund based on targets. Delivery of STDF's MEL Framework and communications plan will help to track and showcase performance and results and support fundraising efforts. Increased human resources in the STDF Secretariat (based on the 2024 evaluation's recommendations) will provide the necessary capacity.
Lack of engagement of members in STDF's work	Low	STDF members will be encouraged to re-commit to the partnership and to provide the necessary time and resources to support delivery of the Strategy. The STDF Secretariat will continue to engage actively with members, during and between Working Group meetings, to ensure that the STDF's work remains relevant and of value and contributes to their objectives. Members of the Working Group will be encouraged to: (i) share information on the STDF's work within their own organizations and networks; (ii) contribute towards delivery of the STDF's workplan, communication plan and MEL Framework; and (iii) identify opportunities for synergies with their work.
Limited interest or capacities of developing countries' stakeholders to ensure sustainability of STDF's work	Medium	Ongoing efforts will be made to strengthen collaboration and partnership with governments and private sector to increase engagement, support and buy-in. At the project level, efforts will be made to develop tailored, feasible and practical sustainability plans and exit strategies at project design phase to be updated during implementation, to ensure continued impact beyond project completion.

Risk	Likelihood	Mitigation Strategy
Long-term economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and/or new major global crisis	Medium	Work will be carried out to: (i) regularly review, update and/or adapt, as appropriate, the risk mitigation measures put in place; and (ii) identify and implement innovative and/or modified approaches and delivery mechanisms to ensure continuity and progress.
Ongoing and/or new instability/insecurity in developing countries impacting delivery of STDF's work on the ground	Medium	Dedicated attention will be given to identify and assess specific risks (such as the turnover of key staff, institutional changes, instability, insecurity etc.) of relevance to STDF projects at the project design stage, and to proactively and regularly re-assess and manage risks during implementation.
New and emerging SPS risks	Medium	Efforts will be made to continuously monitor new and emerging SPS risks, including those related to climate change, and assess their potential impacts on STDF's work. Knowledge sharing and learning will be encouraged to improve risk management and collective responses to new and emerging SPS risks.
Inadequate resources to upscale STDF's work and SPS innovations	Medium	Efforts will be made to diversify sources of funding and co-funding approaches to also increase the role and interest of private sector and government agencies, in addition to traditional donors. Efforts will continue building capacity of key SPS actors to replicate and share SPS innovations. Communications and outreach will profile STDF's work and SPS innovations and help to attract interest and funding.

52. During this MEL Framework cycle, a Risk and Issues Management process will be developed to track probability, impact and management strategies for these risks and to identify and manage new and emerging risks and issues. In addition to risks that affect the STDF at the programme level, STDF projects face distinct risks, which are captured in individual logical frameworks for each project. Risk management at the project level will inform MEL and vice versa. External risks of specific relevance to STDF projects will be assessed by project implementing organizations and the STDF Secretariat on an ongoing basis as part of project monitoring and reporting, with attention to identify and implement risk mitigation measures, as necessary. Where relevant, MEL activities will also identify, analyse and report on the implications of global or regional risks, including pandemics as relevant, for STDF projects and other workstreams.

Safeguarding

53. Safeguarding means ensuring systems and controls are in place to prevent misconduct, protect people from harm, and uphold ethical, transparent, and accountable delivery of STDF-funded activities. As part of its broader risk management and due diligence processes, the STDF Secretariat will develop a self-assessment questionnaire to assist with reviewing the suitability of proposed partners to implement STDF funded projects and PPGs. This tool will be designed to assess the financial, operational and governance capabilities of organizations proposed to manage STDF-funded projects and PPGs.

54. The questionnaire will support informed decision-making by identifying strengths and potential capacity gaps across key functional areas. These may include legal registration and governance, project and financial management, procurement systems, cross-cutting policies and mechanisms for safeguarding against misconduct such as fraud, corruption, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).

55. By systematically collecting this information, the STDF aims to:

- Ensure that implementers have the necessary systems and controls to manage funds responsibly;
- Promote transparency and accountability in project delivery;
- Identify areas where capacity strengthening may be needed;
- Align with international standards and donor expectations for fiduciary oversight and ethical conduct.

56. The questionnaire will help the STDF make informed decisions on the capacity of implementers and provide a structured basis for dialogue and support, particularly where capacity development or transparency may be required to meet STDF's implementation standards.

57. Complementing the questionnaire, the STDF Secretariat, working closely with the WTO Office of Internal Oversight (OIO), will promote the use of the WTO's Integrity Line, a secure, confidential online platform accessible to WTO staff, consultants, interns, and third parties, for reporting concerns related to misconduct. Reports made in good faith are assessed by the independent OIO, with strict protections against retaliation. The Integrity Line enables reporting of issues such as abuse of authority, bribery, conflicts of interest, fraud, harassment (including sexual harassment), data breaches, health and safety risks, environmental harm, and other violations of WTO norms. This initiative reinforces STDF's commitment to transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct across all projects and partnerships, ensuring safeguarding principles are embedded in implementation and monitoring processes.

6. Results Matrix

58. The Results Matrix is articulated around the ToC which is at the core of the MEL Framework. It enables the tracking of results over time and outlines how these results will be measured. The matrix defines clear logical linkages and expected cause-effect relationships between outputs, outcomes, programme goal, impact, ultimately informing the STDF's contribution towards overarching relevant SDGs. It needs to be considered against the very complex set of relationships and roles affecting SPS capacity development at the national and global level, as well as the multiple causes and dimensions of issues that need to be addressed in different areas of food safety, animal and plant health, trade facilitation as well as non-SPS aspects, to facilitate safe trade.

59. The Results Matrix operationalizes the MEL Framework by detailing programme-level indicators, measurement methods, frequency of data collection, data sources, assumptions, risks, as well as definitions and conceptual clarification. The Results Matrix incorporates quantitative targets, which enhance transparency and accountability and allow for better performance tracking in collaboration with STDF partners. Each indicator is explicitly linked to one or more of the STDF's three workstreams (global platform, knowledge work, and the grant mechanism) ensuring comprehensive and integrated results monitoring. It will be used to measure progress and performance at different levels and capture how the STDF's Programme Goal contributes to higher-level impacts in terms of safe trade facilitated and the SDGs. Where possible, baseline and endline studies will be systematically conducted to generate more reliable and attributable data.

60. Stronger linkages will be established between the Results Matrix and the STDF communication plan for improved reporting and results communication. A robust Results Matrix enables the STDF to use a single results-management tool, minimizing the need for separate performance formats for different stakeholders and donors, thereby streamlining reporting and enhancing efficiency. Linkages will be established between STDF programme-level indicators and donors' logframes. Early agreement on harmonized donor reporting requirements will help manage expectations, particularly given STDF's limited MEL resources.

61. Individual projects will continue to develop their own logical frameworks, which are aligned with and feed into the overarching Results Matrix. The STDF's web-based MEL platform will continue to support these linkages by mapping project and programme-level indicators to ensure data coherence and integration across the different levels of the programme. This platform will continue to be leveraged as a dynamic management and accountability tool that enables ongoing tracking, promotes ownership among stakeholders, and supports course correction where necessary.

62. Additionally, the STDF will explore the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance data analysis, aggregation of lessons and recommendations, and pattern identification across projects and regions. Microsoft Power BI (Business Intelligence) Platform will continue to be used to support data visualisation for more effective internal and external reporting.

Surveys to accompany the MEL Framework

63. Information captured through surveys will be reviewed and revised to ensure they are relevant and useful in supporting results-based management.

Target Audience	Purpose	Delivery
STDF Working Group members	Short survey to capture views on STDF's work and results, including feedback on WG meetings, any new collaborative relationships, initiatives or programmes facilitated through the STDF, etc.	Frequency: End of second Working Group meeting each year. Responsibility: STDF Secretariat
PGs/PPGs target groups and project participants	Self-assessment survey to provide additional results and target groups and project participants insights at the end of selected PGs/PPGs to complement reporting.	Frequency: At end of selected STDF projects and PPGs (ad hoc basis) Responsibility: Project / PPG implementing partner, using a template prepared by STDF Secretariat, to collect and analyse data to complement end-of-project reports.
Participants at events organized by the STDF, including side events to the SPS committee meetings	Feedback survey to gather information on relevance and use of STDF's work, etc.	Frequency: Immediately after relevant STDF event. This includes STDF-organized side-events, information sessions, seminars, webinars, PG/PPGs events etc. Responsibility: STDF Secretariat, implementing partners, developing country experts.

Indicators

64. The Results Matrix includes a mix of quantitative and qualitative indicators to track progress and measure results over the Strategy period. These indicators are designed to reflect results achieved across the STDF's three workstreams (global platform, knowledge work and grant mechanism), while integrating attention to cross-cutting priorities of gender and environmental considerations.

65. The MEL Framework acknowledges the broad scope of STDF's work, recognising that not everything can or should be measured. Given the size and diversity of the STDF programme, the framework focuses on a realistic and pragmatic approach to indicator selection. The MEL Framework will continue "aim tracing", as far as possible, i.e. the STDF's contribution to higher-level impacts, including selected SDGs and the facilitation of safe trade, while reinforcing alignment with the STDF's communication plan for better results communication. "Aim tracing" is a qualitative approach used to examine whether and how an organization's stated aims or intentions, such as policy influence, capacity development, or systemic change, are actually realized in practice.

66. The Results Matrix will aim to capture and quantify the changes driven by the STDF, prioritizing the use of SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-bound) indicators wherever feasible. Particular emphasis will be placed on measuring the STDF's contribution to strengthening

SPS capacities in the public and private sectors, improving market access, increasing target groups/project participants' incomes, supporting broader economic development and benefits to the private sector, including savings to cost and time. This results-based approach will also remain mindful of the monitoring, reporting, and data availability challenges frequently encountered in the developing countries supported by the STDF.

67. At the impact level, indicators have been streamlined to focus on trade and improved market access. At the programme goal level, indicators will track progress in increasing target groups/project participants' income, strengthening SPS compliance, and achieving sustained, long-term improvements in SPS systems. At outcome levels, indicators focus on the uptake of good SPS practices and knowledge products at national, regional and global levels, as well as on new investments leveraged, evidence of scaling STDF approaches and enhanced collaboration with public and private sectors, in line with the new Strategy.

68. The MEL Framework still maintains the need to link programme-level indicators to indicators of individual STDF projects. This alignment is essential to enable the aggregation of results across projects in a coherent and harmonized way, ensuring robust programme-level reporting. The STDF's web-based MEL platform will be leveraged to further support this process by facilitating the consistent and regular tracking and aggregation of data reported by implementing partners against programme level indicators.

69. The MEL Framework builds on lessons learned to further promote an inclusive approach to SPS capacity development, recognising the cross-cutting dimensions and broader social impacts of SPS compliance. It acknowledges the challenges facing other vulnerable groups and strengthens efforts to mainstream gender, environment, climate change and biodiversity¹⁵. The Results Matrix includes clearer, measurable indicators related to cross-cutting themes at all levels including impact, programme goal and outcomes. These enhanced efforts align with findings and recommendations of external evaluations and STDF action plans on gender and environment. Knowledge work on different thematic topics will address gender mainstreaming and inclusivity in a way that ensures that women, youth and inclusive groups are not seen exclusively as recipients and target groups, rather also as change agents and a source of knowledge that enriches SPS processes.

70. Learning from across STDF's work will be analysed, leveraging new tools such as AI where possible, to improve the effective identification of trends, patterns, and insights across projects, regions, and thematic areas. This knowledge will be documented and disseminated so that it can be used to inform and improve future SPS capacity development. By embedding these practices into the MEL Framework, the STDF aims to promote continuous improvement, greater accountability, and more strategic use of learning across all areas of its work.

Cross-cutting Issues and the Results Matrix

71. Regarding crosscutting issues, at the strategic level, the Results Matrix aligns STDF results with relevant SDGs, notably SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 15 (Life on Land). This signals a clear intent to link safe trade outcomes to both social inclusion and environmental externalities.

72. At the impact and outcome levels, several indicators in the Results Matrix explicitly reference gender, inclusive groups, and the environment, for instance: [O.O.3](#), [I.O.1](#), [I.O.3](#), [S.O.1.1](#), [S.O.1.2](#), [S.O.1.3](#), [S.O.2.3](#). At the output level, gender and environment are embedded in both project and knowledge work indicators: [I.R.1.1-I.R.1.4](#), [I.R.2.1](#), [I.R.2.2](#), [I.R.3.1](#), [I.R.3.3](#), [I.R.3.5](#) and [I.R.4.1-I.R.4.3](#).

73. The Results Matrix focuses on measurable performance dimensions of gender, inclusion and environment related to SPS capacity development. These issues are now integrated into the structure of results, indicators and reporting requirements, creating accountability for progress. This mainstreaming ensures that STDF's support for safe trade also contributes to more equitable and environmentally responsible SPS systems.

¹⁵ For simplicity, the Results Matrix refers to environment, climate change, and biodiversity collectively under the term 'Environment'.

74. In the Results Matrix the term "inclusive groups" is explicitly defined as referring to "stakeholders who are often underrepresented or disadvantaged in SPS systems and trade, including women, youth, marginalized and indigenous communities as well as persons with disabilities". Therefore, the Results Matrix strives to be inclusive of persons with disabilities, alongside other groups who may face structural barriers to participation in SPS capacity building, trade, or decision-making processes.

75. Gender equality, environmental benefits and other inclusive groups will be measured in projects and PPGs. In STDF projects, this will take place at: (i) the project review stage; (ii) project inception and baseline collection; (iii) collection of disaggregated data as part of M&E; and (v) attention and analysis to cross-cutting dimensions in project reports. In PPGs, guidance will be provided to implementing partners to help them ensure that cross-cutting dimensions of SPS compliance are considered and addressed in the PPG output.

Data Sources and Methods

76. Evidence will be collected from completed and ongoing projects, global platform activities, and knowledge workstreams, supported by data from both internal and external sources. The STDF will rely on a diverse range of credible and verifiable data sources to ensure evidence-based monitoring, evaluation, and learning.

77. Core information will be drawn from project and PPG documentation, including applications, progress and final reports, baseline and endline studies, and ex-post impact evaluations. Projects will be encouraged to collect pre- and post-training evidence through interviews, surveys, focus group discussions to capture behavioural change and adoption of good practices including these with attention to gender and environment mainstreaming.

78. Ex-post impact evaluations will provide deeper insights into long-term effects such as cost reductions, private sector savings, and improved coordination. These will be complemented by institutional records such as Secretariat administrative data, meeting summaries, Working Group and Practitioner Group reports, survey results, and event participation data. Together, these sources will enable consistent tracking of progress and results across the portfolio.

79. To strengthen analysis and contextual understanding, the STDF will also draw on external and publicly available datasets such as WTO, UN Comtrade, ITC Trade Map, FAOSTAT, the EU's Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) database, IPPC Observatory, WOAHS Observatory, the Codex strategic monitoring framework and UNIDO's Trade Standards Compliance Analytics (SCA) tool, alongside relevant national and regional statistics. Digital analytics, including website traffic, social media engagement, and virtual participation records, will further inform outreach and knowledge-sharing indicators. Feedback and inputs from partners, national counterparts, and project beneficiaries will be integrated to ensure a comprehensive and participatory evidence base that supports accountability, learning, and continuous improvement.

80. While efforts will be made to ensure comprehensive data collection, monitoring, and reporting, the STDF recognizes that access to timely and reliable data remains a challenge in many developing country contexts. To address this, the STDF will continue to work proactively with implementing partners, national authorities, and other data providers to identify solutions, strengthen data systems, and enhance the consistency and quality of reporting across projects and initiatives.

Social Network Analysis

81. A social network analysis will be continued to complement and strengthen existing methods. The Social Network Analysis (SNA) in the STDF Evaluation Report (May 2024) aimed to better understand how relationships and information flows function across the STDF partnership. It was carried out using a web-based platform for visualizing and analyzing social and professional networks. The SNA surveyed 152 key stakeholders and 21 current and former STDF Secretariat staff, receiving 81 complete responses (47% response rate). The resulting network contained 223 nodes (individuals) and 524 edges (connections). Participants identified whom they interacted with for SPS-related information, collaboration, and problem-solving. This allowed the evaluators to map how influence, collaboration, and information exchange occur within and across the partnership.

82. The STDF Secretariat emerged from the SNA as the central hub of the network. Over half of respondents named Secretariat staff as people they turn to for critical SPS information, new ideas, or connections beyond their immediate circles. This confirmed the Secretariat's catalytic role as an information marketplace and connector. The analysis revealed a dense core-periphery structure, with the Secretariat and founding partners (FAO, WOA, WHO, World Bank, WTO) forming the core, while regional organizations, project implementers, and developing-country experts occupied the periphery.

83. The findings of the SNA suggested that social network analysis could become a valuable learning and adaptive management tool in the MEL Framework. It can help the STDF monitor how collaboration networks expand, how knowledge and innovations flow, and whether the partnership's catalytic role is deepening over time. This MEL Framework cycle will consider, funding permitting, a mid-way SNA (end of 2027) to update the 2024 SNA and measure the vibrancy and inclusiveness of STDF networks, linking directly to Results Matrix indicators such as S.O.2.2: Number of collaboration networks established and/or sustained through STDF initiatives.

7. Processes and data management

84. The MEL Framework is designed to ensure that any changes are undertaken with a view to keeping the system simple, practical and cost-effective. STDF processes on project review, monitoring and reporting will be reviewed to introduce changes that strengthen MEL, including greater practical attention to review application forms, templates and related guidance to ensure adequate attention to MEL including scaling and cross-cutting issues. In addition, the existing MEL guidance document will be updated and added to the repository of key documents stored on the STDF website. This repository serves as a single access point for project teams, for ease of access and use by project teams to ensure common approaches and practical support.

85. Introduced in the previous Strategy cycle, the STDF's web-based MEL platform has become a central tool in strengthening the STDF's MEL system by providing a structured digital platform for data management, project monitoring, and results aggregation. It has enabled the STDF Secretariat and implementing partners to move from largely manual reporting towards a more consistent, transparent, and evidence-based approach to tracking progress and outcomes across the portfolio.

86. The web-based MEL platform serves as the core repository for project-level monitoring data, progress reports, indicators, and evidence. It has allowed the Secretariat to standardize reporting formats across different projects, making it easier to capture information aligned with the STDF results framework. This helps establish clearer linkages between project and programme level indicators

87. Enhancement to the web-based platform such as the possibility to aggregate qualitative notes and the sending of automatic reminders ahead of reports due date will help streamline and enhance reporting.

Monitoring

88. Monitoring will continue to serve as a core function within the MEL system, providing a continuous flow of information to track performance across STDF's global platform, knowledge work, projects, and PPGs. Under the updated framework, monitoring will be strengthened through more consistent and timely reporting, standardized templates, and enhanced use of the web-based MEL platform. Implementing organizations will continue to submit inception, six-monthly progress, and end-of-project reports through the web-based MEL platform, with clearer guidance on reporting content and deadlines. These reports will capture progress against standard indicators, including those addressing cross-cutting issues such as gender, inclusion, environment, and scaling.

89. To support better data quality and on-time submission, early automated reminders, portfolio reviews, and targeted MEL clinics will be introduced. Inception reports will become mandatory for all projects to strengthen logframes and establish baselines. Progress and milestones will continue to be summarized in the STDF Annual Report and shared with the Working Group, alongside regular portfolio updates and risk reviews. The Secretariat will also integrate programme-level risk and issue management, enabling the monitoring system to track not only project-specific but also portfolio-wide risks related to implementation capacity, safeguarding, and sustainability.

Evaluation

90. External evaluations of STDF projects and the entire programme have been a cornerstone of STDF MEL efforts under previous strategies and will continue to be important under this MEL Framework. The purpose of evaluation will be to assess the overall relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability and impact of the STDF's workstreams to ensure accountability to donors, and support learning and decisions about what to do next.

91. The STDF Secretariat will continue to outsource external evaluations. Two main types of external evaluations are planned, covering both the programme and project level:

92. External programme evaluations: An independent evaluation of the overall STDF programme will be conducted in accordance with the STDF Operational Rules. Under the MEL Framework, this evaluation will adopt a more structured and learning-oriented approach, focusing on the collective results, outcomes, and catalytic effects of the STDF across its three workstreams: global platform, knowledge work and funding mechanism. It will look at all work done during the entire strategy period and will also analyse the contribution towards identified SDGs. The scope will also include impacts such as improved market access and safe trade, strengthened SPS systems and regulatory efficiency, and the scaling of innovations. The evaluation will also assess the effectiveness of cross-cutting mainstreaming (gender, environment, inclusion) and progress against the STDF Strategy 2025–2030. The evaluation will normally be completed in the year prior to the final year of the Strategy period, unless otherwise decided by the Policy Committee. The WTO will continue to manage the selection of the evaluation firm following its procurement procedures.

93. Independent ex-post impact evaluations: Ex-post evaluations will be expanded and systematized under this MEL Framework. 50% of completed projects will be subject to an ex-post evaluation, where possible, and carried out two to three years after closure to assess sustained impact and scalability. These ex-post evaluations will be selected by the Working Group Chair in consultation with Working Group members. Selection will be based on criteria agreed by the Working Group, considering project typology, region, and innovation potential. If projects are addressing similar themes, there will be the option of combining ex-post project evaluations. These evaluations will focus on broader outcomes such as improved SPS compliance, market access, reduction in rejections, institutionalization of practices, and long-term behavioural change. They will use the STDF Project Evaluation Guidelines¹⁶, which will be updated to align with this MEL Framework, to ensure methodological consistency, comparability, and quality. Results will be uploaded to the web-based MEL platform and synthesized annually to identify trends and lessons for scaling and learning across the portfolio.¹⁷

94. The findings of all STDF evaluations will continue to be shared with all STDF members and made available publicly on the STDF website. Findings, conclusions, lessons learned and recommendations of evaluations will be discussed by the Working Group, and also presented to other relevant audiences, for instance during STDF events and sessions organized for SPS Committee members and other audiences.

95. The Working Group may decide to carry out meta-evaluations or assessments addressing specific topics or cross-cutting issues (e.g. gender or environment) across STDF's projects/PPGs and knowledge work.

96. The STDF's approach already reflects the core principles of Value for Money (VfM), often summarized as the "4 Es": Economy, Efficiency, Effectiveness and Equity. VfM is not only about the *what* (resources financing outputs and outcomes), but also the *how* (efficiency, accountability, transparency), the *why* (relevance, effectiveness) and the *who* (equity). While VfM is not formalized as a separate framework, its principles guide STDF's operations and will be considered as part of the end-of-strategy evaluation. These dimensions are embedded in STDF practices, for example:

¹⁶ See: www.standardsfacility.org/key-documents

¹⁷ To offset the cost of increasing the number of ex-post impact evaluations, savings will be made from the previous practice of requiring separate end of project reports, and end of project assessment reports which will now be streamlined into one final project report.

- **Economy:** Cost-conscious project design and procurement processes ensure resources are used wisely, leveraging co-financing and partnerships to maximize impact.
- **Efficiency:** Digital reporting and regular portfolio reviews enable timely course corrections. Also, promoting co-funding arrangements enhance efficient project design and delivery by pooling complementary resources and enabling catalytic interventions.
- **Effectiveness:** Evidence-based learning and contribution analysis strengthen the focus on results, scaling successful approaches for broader impact.
- **Equity:** Inclusive approaches integrate gender and vulnerable groups, ensuring benefits reach those most in need where possible and promoting fair participation in safe trade.

Learning

97. The STDF 2024 External Evaluation recognizes STDF's culture of learning and using those lessons to influence change. It says that STDF "has demonstrated its ability to convene and connect diverse stakeholders, deliver demand-driven activities, and learn from and disseminate results". It recommends for learning to be embedded more systematically in results-based management and decision-making.

98. The STDF Scaling Case Study 2025 (pages 26–28, 32–35) identifies learning as a central enabler of sustainability and adaptive management within STDF's system. It highlights that scaling does not happen by chance but through the deliberate use of evidence, reflection, and adaptive feedback. Embedding learning into the MEL Framework therefore requires systematic approaches to capture, analyse, and apply lessons from across the STDF's workstreams.

99. The Case Study notes that the STDF already collects extensive data from grantees and has indicators related to scaling, yet this evidence was not fully used for cross-project learning or long-term tracking of impact. It recommends extending MEL time horizons to observe the full scaling journey of projects (10+ years) where possible and relevant, and to identify which types of interventions achieve sustained adoption or institutionalization.

100. The Case Study also stresses the importance of intentional feedback loops that enable real-time learning during implementation. STDF's flexible project management practices, such as adaptive approvals, no-cost extensions, and iterative engagement with partners supports learning-by-doing (page 24).

101. Learning should also be collective and participatory. The Case Study encourages more structured mechanisms for joint reflection among grantees, project managers, and Working Group members, analysis (pages 26–27). Knowledge products should not only disseminate good practices but also capture insights on what makes scaling work across different contexts. The Case Study recommends linking MEL-driven learning to decision-making for future funding and design, allowing successful models to inform new projects and policy engagement. In this regard, lessons from evaluations can be more systematically shared and better integrated in decision making of the Working Group and the Secretariat where possible.

102. The STDF Results Matrix embeds learning as a deliberate, measurable, and continuous function across all levels of the results chain. Learning is treated as a key driver of performance, scaling, and partnership effectiveness rather than a by-product of monitoring and evaluation.

103. At the output level, learning is reflected in the expansion of knowledge and communication indicators (I.R.1.1–I.R.1.6) that track the number, reach, and relevance of STDF knowledge products, guides, and communication outputs. These indicators capture how lessons, evidence, and innovations are generated and shared through practitioner groups, digital platforms, and events. These practitioner groups function as hubs for cross-regional knowledge exchange, allowing stakeholders from different countries and sectors to share lessons, test new approaches, and co-develop solutions to emerging SPS challenges. Metrics such as the number of participants in global platform events and stakeholder satisfaction (I.R.4.4) provide direct feedback loops for organizational learning, helping the STDF understand what works and where adjustments are needed.

104. At the outcome and strategic levels, learning is integrated into indicators that monitor the uptake and application of SPS good practices (S.O.1.2–S.O.1.3) and the adaptation or replication of STDF innovations (S.O.2.3). These indicators measure not only technical results but also the use of

knowledge, showing how evidence from projects informs national policies, regional cooperation, and institutional strengthening. The inclusion of ex-post impact evaluations (I.O.3) provides another layer of learning by analysing how results are sustained and scaled over time.

105. The Results Matrix also reinforces learning through participatory and feedback mechanisms, including stakeholder surveys, Working Group reviews, and practitioner group engagement. In this regard, data from the web-based MEL platform and evaluation findings will be aggregated annually, in the Annual Report, to support reflection and adaptive management.

8. Delivery and resources

106. Implementation of the MEL Framework will be led by the STDF Secretariat, in close cooperation with the Working Group and other organizations involved in STDF work. Building on the valuable role provided by members in developing this framework, the virtual "MEL Group" will be maintained to provide guidance to the implementation of MEL activities, including the development and roll out of new MEL tools, (meeting once a year). Organizations implementing STDF projects and PPGs will have a key role to play in delivery of MEL activities, as outlined in the Results Matrix. The Secretariat will report regularly to the Working Group on implementation of the Framework.

107. Following approval of this MEL Framework, the Secretariat will prepare a calendar of MEL activities. The first year will be used to develop, launch and trial new processes and methods. This will include updates of surveys and the web-based MEL platform, developing the Risk and Issue Management System to manage portfolio-wide risks, including safeguarding issues and general implementing partner capacity reviews. Additional updates will be considered such as a MEL guidance document, updating report and ToR templates, guidance for baselines and endlines, and harmonised guidance on reporting on in-kind contributions. The Secretariat and MEL Group, in consultation with the Working Group, will assess the implementation and results achieved, and introduce modifications as required.

108. Financial and human resources will be needed to deliver this MEL Framework. Resources will be required in the STDF Secretariat, as well as at the level of projects and PPGs. STDF projects include resources for monitoring, evaluation and learning. For ongoing projects, discussions will take place with implementing partners on steps to adopt and use this MEL Framework as part of ongoing MEL work, including resource implications, if any. Project implementing organizations will be supported to be able to use the MEL Framework and tools. This will include, for instance, the organization of virtual MEL information sessions or webinars and targeted discussions on MEL within projects. For future projects and PPGs, additional resources may need to be allocated to cover MEL, including to cover baseline and endline studies. Members of the Working Group, including the MEL Group, will also be expected to contribute their time to support MEL.

ANNEX 1: RESULTS MATRIX

2025-2030 RESULTS MATRIX

**Inclusive groups refer to stakeholders who are often underrepresented or disadvantaged in SPS systems and trade, including women, youth, marginalized and indigenous communities as well as persons with disabilities.*

Logframe level	STDF Programme level indicators	Measurable indicators	Targets (2025-2030)	Type	Measurement method	Measurement frequency	Source	Assumptions	Risks	Relevant STDF Workstream(s)	Definitions/Notes
SDGs	Sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction and food security SDGs supported.	SDG 1 (No Poverty): 1.1.1 Proportion of the population living below the international poverty line by sex, age, employment status and geographic location (urban/rural).	Aggregated results from 72 PGs and PPGs over 2025-2030 Strategy period	Quantitative/ qualitative	Contributions to the different SDGs will be assessed at the end of each Strategy period as part of STDF's external programme evaluations. The measurement will draw on results from completed and ongoing projects, as well as achievements under STDF's global platform and knowledge workstreams to estimate the STDF's contribution, supported by both quantitative data and qualitative evidence.	End of Strategy 2025-2030	All relevant documents, publications, results reporting, ex-post impact evaluations as well as all other relevant information produced over the strategy period.	The STDF's MEL framework is sufficiently robust to collect, analyse, and report on results across its workstreams. Participating countries remain willing and able to share relevant data and results. Political, environmental, and other contextual risks do not significantly disrupt the implementation of activities or the achievement of expected outcomes.	Inconsistent or incomplete data collection across STDF workstreams limits the ability to aggregate results and assess contributions to the SDGs. Limited willingness or capacity of target groups to share relevant data and results restricts evidence collection and reporting. Political instability, environmental shocks, or other external disruptions negatively impact STDF's work in support of developing countries. Attribution challenges arise due to the influence of multiple external factors, making it difficult to isolate STDF's specific contribution to	Global platform Knowledge work Funding mechanism	Emphasis will be placed on measuring the intended and unintended contributions of STDF's three workstreams towards the identified SDG indicators, while recognising the multiple factors and initiatives that contribute to achieving these goals.
		SDG 2 (Zero Hunger): 2.1 Universal access to safe and nutritious food; 2.3.2 Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status; 2.4 Sustainable food production and resilient agricultural practices.	Aggregated results from 72 PGs and PPGs over 2025-2030 Strategy period							Global platform Knowledge work Funding mechanism	
		SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being): 3.1.1 International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness; 4.1 Multisectoral collaboration mechanism for food safety events.	Aggregated results from 72 PGs and PPGs over 2025-2030 Strategy period							Global platform Knowledge work Funding mechanism	

Logframe level	STDF Programme level indicators	Measurable indicators	Targets (2025-2030)	Type	Measurement method	Measurement frequency	Source	Assumptions	Risks	Relevant STDF Workstream(s)	Definitions/Notes
		SDG 5 (Gender Equality): 5.7 Equal rights to economic resources, property ownership and financial services; 5.9 Adopt and strengthen policies and enforceable legislation for gender equality.	Aggregated results from 72 PGs and PPGs over 2025-2030 Strategy period						targeted SDG outcomes. Variation in the magnitude of STDF's contributions across different SDGs complicates measurement and comparison. Differences between STDF's indicator measurements and SDG indicators hinder alignment and limit aggregation.	Global platform Knowledge work Funding mechanism	
		SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth): 8.2.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person / 8.a.1 Aid for Trade commitments and disbursements.	Aggregated results from 72 PGs and PPGs over 2025-2030 Strategy period							Global platform Knowledge work Funding mechanism	
		SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities): 10.1 Reduce income inequalities; 10.2 Promote universal social, economic and political inclusion; 10.3 Ensure equal opportunities and end discrimination; 10.8 Special and differential treatment for developing countries; 10.9 Encourage development assistance and investment in LDCs.	Aggregated results from 72 PGs and PPGs over 2025-2030 Strategy period							Global platform Knowledge work Funding mechanism	
		SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production): 12.3 Halve global per capita food waste; 12.4 Responsible	Aggregated results from 72 PGs and PPGs over 2025-2030 Strategy period							Global platform Knowledge work Funding mechanism	

Logframe level	STDF Programme level indicators	Measurable indicators	Targets (2025-2030)	Type	Measurement method	Measurement frequency	Source	Assumptions	Risks	Relevant STDF Workstream(s)	Definitions/Notes
		management of chemicals and waste.									
		SDG 13 (Climate Action): 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into policies and planning; 13.3 Build knowledge and capacity to meet climate change; 13.5 Promote mechanisms to raise capacity for planning and management.	Aggregated results from 72 PGs and PPGs over 2025-2030 Strategy period							Global platform Knowledge work Funding mechanism	
		SDG 14 (Life Below Water): 14.1 Reduce marine pollution; 14.9 Support small scale fishers.	Aggregated results from 72 PGs and PPGs over 2025-2030 Strategy period							Global platform Knowledge work Funding mechanism	
		SDG 15 (Life on Land): 15.8 Prevent invasive alien species on land and in water ecosystems.	Aggregated results from 72 PGs and PPGs over 2025-2030 Strategy period							Global platform Knowledge work Funding mechanism	
		SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals): 17.11.1 Developing countries and least developed countries share of global exports.	Aggregated results from 72 PGs and PPGs over 2025-2030 Strategy period							Global platform Knowledge work Funding mechanism	
Overall Objective (O.O.)	Impact: Safe trade facilitated.	O.O.1: Change in US\$ value of exports for target HS code products and target markets of STDF projects.	X Million USD	Quantitative	Data for these indicators analyses exports in value chains from countries targeted by STDF projects. Where possible, particularly in value chain projects or those	End of project	Trade databases (e.g. WTO global trade data portal; UN Comtrade; ITC Trade Map; FAOSTAT database),	Stable exchange rates, no significant downturn in export prices, exporters' ability to meet buyers' contractual requirements	Changes in export value may be driven primarily by price shifts in global markets, exchange rate volatility, or inflation rather than by improvements in SPS compliance or	Funding mechanism	Measuring these indicators might not be possible for projects without a clear product focus (e.g. those focused on institutional strengthening or broader regulatory capacity). Exports include exports to

Logframe level	STDF Programme level indicators	Measurable indicators	Targets (2025-2030)	Type	Measurement method	Measurement frequency	Source	Assumptions	Risks	Relevant STDF Workstream(s)	Definitions/Notes
					focused on specific agricultural or food products, changes in the value of exports will be tracked over the project lifetime. Implementing organizations will collect and report on these indicators at the end of projects.		national statistics, projects data Baseline, endline reports Project reports Ex-post impact evaluations	(quantity and price), and no major changes in trade costs and risks. Target groups in countries supported by STDF (public and private sector) have ongoing support and resources to reap the medium- and longer-term benefits of capacity development.	market access, complicating attribution to STDF support. Time taken to meet requirements of new markets and see increase in exports /Access to other inputs (e.g., finance) needed to access markets /Outbreak of pest, disease, health issue that limits market access		new and existing markets. Data against these indicators will be collected at project completion.
		O.O.2: Change in volume of exports for target HS code products and target markets of STDF projects.	X Million ton	Quantitative	As far as possible, data from baseline and endline studies will be collected to estimate STDF's contribution however, where relevant, data from open databases will be used to measure indirect contribution towards safe trade facilitation.	End of project			Export volumes may be affected by external factors unrelated to the project, such as market demand fluctuations, trade restrictions, climatic events, or competing suppliers, making it difficult to attribute observed changes solely to project outcomes.	Funding mechanism	
		O.O.3: Number of enterprises and associations with increased or maintained market access and export/import of safe and sustainable products (disaggregated by inclusive groups).	22 projects 220 enterprises/associations # of products	Quantitative/qualitative	Content and data analysis of project documents (e.g. progress reports, end-of-project reports, evaluations) will be used to identify firms with maintained or increased market access. Where relevant, particularly in value chain-focused projects, implementing	Annual	Baseline, endline reports Project reports Ex-post impact evaluations	Enterprises and associations adopt and maintain SPS good practices, enabling them to meet market requirements for safe and sustainable products and to retain or expand access to domestic, regional, and	Market access may be hindered by external factors outside of coverage of STDF projects such as productivity related challenges or changes in market requirements unrelated to SPS compliance. Economic downturns, logistical constraints, or lack of sustained	Funding mechanism	This indicator measures new markets accessed or maintained by enterprises and associations supported by STDF to improve their SPS compliance. The measurement of maintained markets aims to assess the long-term institutionalization of good SPS practices. In addition to tracking

Logframe level	STDF Programme level indicators	Measurable indicators	Targets (2025-2030)	Type	Measurement method	Measurement frequency	Source	Assumptions	Risks	Relevant STDF Workstream(s)	Definitions/Notes
					organizations will track and report on this indicator after project completion. Baseline and endline studies will be used, where available, to help estimate STDF's contribution.			international markets.	investment in compliance measures may also limit results.		trade growth, the indicator will measure how STDF's support allows developing countries not lose market access due to raising SPS threats.
Intermediate Objective (I.O.)	Programme goal: Increased and sustained SPS capacity of public and private sector stakeholders in developing countries.	I.O.1: Number of ultimate target group participants with increased income (including smallholder farmers, employees of SMEs, women, youth & other inclusive groups).	22 projects 2,200 target group participants with increased income.	Qualitative/ Quantitative	Baseline and endline studies including stakeholders' surveys and focus group discussions will be commissioned by implementing organisations to measure this indicator.	End of project	Baseline, endline reports Project reports Ex-post impact evaluations	Participants adopt improved SPS practices and access stable markets. Participants are willing to provide details about their income.	Market volatility or external shocks limit income gains despite capacity improvements. There may be difficulties in reporting on this indicator if participants are reluctant to share information about their income	Funding mechanism	This indicator measures the number of final target group participants (e.g. smallholder farmers, SME employees, women, youth, and other inclusive groups) who report an increase in income attributable to STDF project activities.
		I.O.2: Percentage change in interceptions, rejections and/or SPS non-compliance alerts/notifications.	22 projects contribute to 65% reductions in interceptions, rejections and/or SPS non-compliance alerts/notifications.	Quantitative/ qualitative	Analysis of data in EU RASFF database to give an indication of SPS compliance trends and changes, linked as far as possible to countries/sectors/products targeted by STDF projects. Where appropriate, projects will track non-compliance for particular products/exports. In addition, data analysis of other available secondary sources (UNIDO Trade Standards	Annual	Publicly-available datasets such as EU RASFF database (https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/rasff-window/portal/?event=SearchForm&cleanSearch=1) ; UNIDO's Standards Compliance Analytics (SCA) tool: Trade Rejection Data Explorer UNIDO Knowledge Hub; Data available at	Improved SPS capacity, practices, and compliance measures supported by STDF lead to a measurable reduction in interceptions, rejections, and SPS non-compliance alerts/notifications over time. Reliable and consistent reporting systems are in place to track these changes.	Data on interceptions, rejections, and SPS non-compliance may be incomplete, inconsistent, or unavailable across countries or sectors, limiting accurate measurement. External factors beyond project control (e.g., changes in importing countries' inspection regimes, new pest or disease outbreaks, or shifts in trade	Funding mechanism	The following definitions apply in this context: Interceptions are actions taken to stop a product from entering a country due to potential SPS related risks. The product is held while further investigation or testing is conducted to determine if it can be released, or if it needs to be rejected. Rejections are formal refusals of entry after an inspection. The product may be returned to the country of origin,

Logframe level	STDF Programme level indicators	Measurable indicators	Targets (2025-2030)	Type	Measurement method	Measurement frequency	Source	Assumptions	Risks	Relevant STDF Workstream(s)	Definitions/Notes
					Compliance Report (TSCR), EC Food, Veterinary Office Reports and information available in project participating countries) may provide additional information on this indicator.		national/regional levels.		patterns) may influence results.		destroyed, or otherwise dealt with according to regulations. SPS non-compliance alerts/notifications indicate that a product doesn't meet specific health or safety standards and can lead to either interception or rejection if the issue is not resolved. Reporting will be focused on value chains targeted by STDF's projects. Information will be gathered from project participating countries if available or from online open-source data alternatively.
		I.O.3: Number of completed projects with evidence of sustained SPS improvements, including attention to inclusive groups and environment.	24 projects with evidence of sustained results 3 years after completion in xx number of countries.	Qualitative	Focus will be on data collected through ex-post impact evaluations to capture sustained results after project completion. Reporting for this indicator will be primarily qualitative, highlighting long-term impact stories and outcome narratives. [confirmed via project impact evaluations]	Annual	Ex-post impact evaluation	Project interventions are designed with strong stakeholder ownership, institutional alignment, and follow-up mechanisms and resources that support the continuation of SPS improvements beyond project completion.	Institutional or financial constraints could limit the ability of target groups to maintain and scale SPS improvements. External factors such as political instability could also negatively impact scaling potentials.	Funding mechanism	Completed projects with sustained SPS improvements refer to initiatives that, after their formal conclusion, continue to demonstrate effective implementation of sanitary and phytosanitary measures aligned with international standards. These improvements will include those that show lasting benefits for inclusive groups and incorporate environmentally sustainable practices. This indicator will also aim to capture

Logframe level	STDF Programme level indicators	Measurable indicators	Targets (2025-2030)	Type	Measurement method	Measurement frequency	Source	Assumptions	Risks	Relevant STDF Workstream(s)	Definitions/Notes
											domestic spillovers as far as possible.
		I.O.4: Evidence of improved public sector processes contributing to private sector savings.	22 projects contribute to evidence of private sector savings through improved public sector processes.	Qualitative	Focus will be on data collected through ex-post impact evaluations to capture reductions in transaction costs and private sector savings.	Annual	Baseline, endline reports Ex-post impact evaluations	Linkage between public sector processes and private sector savings is clear. Data on savings and transaction cost is available by the time of the evaluation.	Difficulty in measuring private sector savings. Target group participants reluctant to share information on savings.	Funding mechanism	This indicator will measure the extent of private sector savings in both time and cost resulting from streamlined and more efficient public sector processes. It will capture improvements such as reduced administrative delays, lower compliance costs, and faster service delivery facilitated by institutional or procedural enhancements.
Strategic Objective 1 (S.O.1)	Outcome 1: Increased uptake of SPS good practices and knowledge products at national, regional and global level.	S.O.1.1: Number of new or improved SPS legislation, regulation, policies, strategies and/or processes, including attention to inclusive groups and environment.	65 SPS legislation, regulation, policies, strategies, structures and/or processes.	Quantitative/ qualitative	#of new regulations or policies developed or updated (including legislation, regulations, policies, strategies, or processes) will be tracked and reported upon by implementing partners through projects reports.	Annual	Projects/PPGs reports Ex-post impact evaluations	Relevant institutions have the political will, technical expertise, and stakeholder engagement mechanisms necessary to initiate and sustain SPS reforms that are inclusive and environmentally responsive.	Legislative or regulatory reform processes may be delayed or obstructed due to political instability, lack of inter-agency coordination, or resistance from influential stakeholders. The attention to inclusive groups and environment might be hindered by the inability to see the linkages between these cross-cutting issues and regulatory or legislative frameworks.	Funding mechanism	The following definitions apply in this context: Legislation refers to national laws providing the legal framework for implementing SPS measures. Regulations are the rules and requirements to implement the legislation. They specify the technical standards and procedures for SPS measures. Policies are broad statements of intent and principles that guide the development and

Logframe level	STDF Programme level indicators	Measurable indicators	Targets (2025-2030)	Type	Measurement method	Measurement frequency	Source	Assumptions	Risks	Relevant STDF Workstream(s)	Definitions/Notes
											implementation of SPS measures. Strategies are long-term plans for achieving specific SPS objectives (e.g. strategy to improve food safety). Processes are specific procedures and mechanisms for implementing SPS measures, such as risk assessment, inspection, certification etc.
		S.O.1.2: Number of government and regional representatives with improved SPS capabilities to implement the WTO SPS Agreement and international standards (CODEX, IPPC, WOH standards) (disaggregated by region, inclusive groups, and types of institutions).	5,400 government and regional representatives.	Quantitative/ qualitative	Content analysis of project reports. Interviews and surveys carried out by projects/PPGs partners. Qualitative and quantitative evidence will be collected by implementing organisations to show how project participants implement new approaches, knowledge and SPS good practices brought by the projects. This will also include evidence of implementation of knowledge shared during projects' trainings.	Annual	Projects/PPGs reports Ex-post impact evaluations	Government and regional representatives have the institutional support and mandate to apply improved SPS capabilities in line with WTO and international standards.	High staff turnover or limited institutional continuity may undermine the retention and application of SPS good practices and skills gained through capacity-building efforts.	Funding mechanism	Improved SPS capabilities refer to the demonstrated capabilities to apply and the adoption of SPS measures covered through SPS-related training or capacity building activities. Government and regional representatives include officials from ministries (e.g., agriculture, health, trade), national SPS authorities, regional economic communities, and intergovernmental organizations.
		S.O.1.3: Number of value chain actors with improved SPS capabilities to	12,500 value chain actors.	Quantitative/ qualitative	Related quantitative and qualitative data gathered via	Annual	Project/PPGs reports	Value chain actors are willing and able to participate	Limited engagement or uptake by value chain actors due	Funding mechanism	Improved SPS capabilities refers to the demonstrated capabilities to apply

Logframe level	STDF Programme level indicators	Measurable indicators	Targets (2025-2030)	Type	Measurement method	Measurement frequency	Source	Assumptions	Risks	Relevant STDF Workstream(s)	Definitions/Notes
		implement the WTO SPS Agreement and international standards (CODEX, IPPC, WOH standards) (disaggregated by region and inclusive groups).			interviews or administrative data of value chain actors. Projects will be encouraged to conduct pre- and post-training assessments to measure knowledge and skills gained and surveys and interviews to assess behavioural changes and adoption of practices, including those with attention to gender and environment mainstreaming. Both number of actors and case studies or narrative illustrations will be used to report on this indicator.		Ex-post impact evaluations	in capacity-building activities and apply/adopt improved SPS practices, including those aligned with gender and environment mainstreaming . Good practice and knowledge relevant and locally grounded.	to resource constraints, lack of incentives which may hinder measurable improvements.		and the adoption of SPS measures covered through SPS-related training or capacity building activities.
Strategic Objective 2 (S.O.2)	Outcome 2: Catalytic SPS improvements at national, regional and global level driven by STDF's partnership.	S.O.2.1: Value (US\$) of new investments leveraged (disaggregated by co-financing vs. in-kind, and public, private sector and developing partners).	US\$ X million leveraged by the STDF including X through co-financing and X through external funding sources to scale STDF piloted innovations. US\$ 12 million through government in-kind Other sources: TBD.	Quantitative	Financial and in-kind resources mobilized for SPS capacity development through STDF PPGs and PGs will be tracked and reported upon. Implementing partners will lead on data capturing and reporting at project completion and additional data will be captured through ex-post impact	Annual	Project application documents Project/PPGs reports Ex-post impact evaluations	Funding sources continue to be available. STDF's new work on scaling, regional links and private sector roundtables help to leverage resources and link with diversified funding sources to	Risks linked to this indicator include the difficulty of attributing leveraged investments directly to STDF-supported interventions in complex environments with multiple actors and funding sources. Incomplete or inconsistent reporting from implementing partners and target group	Funding mechanism	New investments refer to the co-financing contributions, in cash or in kind, required from participating countries or private sector implementers under the operational rules of the STDF. They also include additional resources mobilized from other sources, including those leveraged through projects and Project Preparation Grants (PPGs), to support

Logframe level	STDF Programme level indicators	Measurable indicators	Targets (2025-2030)	Type	Measurement method	Measurement frequency	Source	Assumptions	Risks	Relevant STDF Workstream(s)	Definitions/Notes
					evaluations where applicable. Sources of funds will also be reported to track whether leveraged resources come from governments, donors, multilateral banks or private sector.			support scaling and innovation. Stakeholders (e.g., governments, donors, multilateral banks, private sector) are willing and able to invest in scaling SPS approaches. STDF pilot grants are successful and demonstrate value to attract follow-on financing. Economic and political environments remain conducive to public and private sector investments. Mechanisms exist to track and report leveraged funding in a timely and transparent manner. Project implementers and partners are motivated to pursue and report investment opportunities.	participants may further limit accuracy, especially when disaggregating by source or distinguishing co-financing from other contributions. In addition, mobilising finance to scale successful pilot grants remains challenging, as many donors hesitate to invest beyond the pilot phase without strong evidence of long-term impact. Political and economic uncertainties in some regions may also affect the visibility, sustainability or continuation of investments, while exchange rate fluctuations can distort the reported value of funds over time.		implementation and/or scaling.

Logframe level	STDF Programme level indicators	Measurable indicators	Targets (2025-2030)	Type	Measurement method	Measurement frequency	Source	Assumptions	Risks	Relevant STDF Workstream(s)	Definitions/Notes
		S.O.2.2: Number of collaboration networks established and/or operationalized through STDF initiatives and sustained (disaggregated by types of institutions – regional organizations, private sector, public sector).	70 collaborative networks established or operationalized through x STDF PPGs/PPGs. Types of institutions and or actors members of the networks.	Quantitative	The projects will capture the number of new collaborative networks (public-private, public-private, public-private) at global, regional, national level linked to STDF work.	Annual	Project application documents Project/PPGs reports STDF WG members and partners	Stakeholders recognize the value of collaboration to strengthen SPS systems in developing countries and remain actively engaged and committed to sustaining networks beyond project support.	Competing priorities, lack of resources, or institutional changes may weaken stakeholder engagement and lead to the discontinuation of collaboration networks after project support ends.	Global platform/Knowledge work/Funding mechanism	Collaboration networks refer to formal or structured partnerships between public sector institutions, private sector actors, regional economic communities, and other relevant stakeholders established or strengthened through STDF initiatives. These networks aim to enhance coordination, knowledge-sharing, and joint action to improve SPS systems in developing countries. In line with the new STDF Strategy, the indicator will also capture regional links and private sector roundtables.
		S.O.2.3: Evidence of scaled STDF approaches and innovations (i.e. adapted, replicated) disaggregated by scaling deep, out, up, including attention to inclusive groups and environment.	x STDF approaches scaled.	Quantitative/Qualitative	Quantitative and qualitative data will be captured on the use of innovation developed or used by the projects to support improved SPS systems. A mix of methods will be used to collect qualitative evidence of how STDF's work is taken up and used (adapted, replicated, scaled, etc.) by other	Annual	Project/PPGs reports Ex-post impact evaluations	STDF approaches are recognized as relevant and adaptable, with strong stakeholder support, enabling their replication and scaling while ensuring inclusivity and environmental considerations.	Limited interest of stakeholders, or perception that the innovations are not relevant for scaling. Limited stakeholder buy-in, resources, or enabling policy environment may hinder replication and expansion, and compromise inclusion and environmental objectives.	Knowledge work/Funding mechanism	STDF approaches are approaches and practices developed and/or recommended through STDF supported work (e.g. P-IMA, stronger linkages between SPS and other border agencies, e-Phyto, etc.). Innovation in the context of the STDF refers to the introduction, adaptation, or scaling of new or improved technologies,

Logframe level	STDF Programme level indicators	Measurable indicators	Targets (2025-2030)	Type	Measurement method	Measurement frequency	Source	Assumptions	Risks	Relevant STDF Workstream(s)	Definitions/Notes
					organizations to drive catalytic SPS improvements. This will include qualitative explanations of ways in which gender analysis inform gender mainstreaming in projects and how environment was considered during implementation.						processes, partnerships, and approaches that enhance SPS capacity development and safe trade. It encompasses digital and technological solutions, cross-sectoral collaborations and the transfer of successful practices across countries or regions. Innovation also involves developing and promoting new, inclusive and gender-responsive methods to strengthen SPS systems and achieve greater, sustainable impact. Scaling in the context of the STDF refers to facilitating the adoption, expansion and sustainability of successful SPS solutions so that they meaningfully reduce unsafe trade beyond the direct support of the STDF Secretariat. Evidence of scaled STDF approaches refers to approaches that remain in use and have been replicated beyond completed projects, whether by expanding to new target group

Logframe level	STDF Programme level indicators	Measurable indicators	Targets (2025-2030)	Type	Measurement method	Measurement frequency	Source	Assumptions	Risks	Relevant STDF Workstream(s)	Definitions/Notes
											participants (scaling out), increasing coverage in existing systems (scaling up), extending to new sectors or regions (scaling across), or deepening impact within current contexts (scaling deep). Ideally, although potential resources should be sought during project implementation, scaling should take place without STDF support.
Immediate Result 1 (I.R.1)	Output 1: Increased availability and awareness of SPS good practices and knowledge products	I.R.1.1: Number and type of STDF knowledge products completed/published. Including knowledge products that pay attention to: 1) inclusive groups 2) environment	18 knowledge products published. 6 knowledge products with attention to inclusive groups & environment.	Quantitative	Keep track of knowledge products produced and published on STDF's website, including those addressing inclusive groups and/or environment considerations.	Annual	Secretariat knowledge work records STDF website	Adequate financial, human and time resources to produce these knowledge products. WG members and STDF Secretariat have interest, knowledge and resources to promote gender and environment mainstreaming in knowledge work.	Insufficient human resources and time of STDF Secretariat and partners to engage in (co-)creating knowledge products. Lack of interest or limited visibility in usefulness of knowledge products.	Knowledge work	This indicator covers knowledge products (co-)created or commissioned by the STDF. STDF's knowledge products include evaluation reports, publications and briefings created and co-created by STDF and members of the partnership on SPS good practices which aim to support developing countries improve their SPS systems and global knowledge on SPS good practices. These include products contributing to increased knowledge on linkages between SPS and inclusive groups and

Logframe level	STDF Programme level indicators	Measurable indicators	Targets (2025-2030)	Type	Measurement method	Measurement frequency	Source	Assumptions	Risks	Relevant STDF Workstream(s)	Definitions/Notes
											environment. Topics covered will include, but not limited to, good regulatory practices, public-private partnerships, regional links, private sector roundtable, scaling, electronic certification, financing, trade facilitation etc.
		I.R.1.2: Number and type of STDF communication products completed/published. Including communication products that pay attention to: 1) inclusive groups 2) environment	108 communication products. 43 products with attention to inclusive groups & environment.	Quantitative	Count all communication products, including those addressing inclusive groups and/or environment considerations.	Annual	Secretariat communication records STDF website	Adequate financial, human and time resources to publish these communication products.	Insufficient human resources and time of STDF Secretariat and partners to publish communication products. Delays or challenges in implementing PGs/PPGs may limit the timely publication of results and impact stories.	Global platform	This indicator covers communication products developed by the STDF. Communication products include results/impact stories, e-newsletters, social media posts, films as well as any other communication publications aimed at increasing the visibility and outreach of STDF's work.
		I.R.1.3: Number and type of SPS guides, manuals, and communication products developed and/or updated through STDF projects. Including products that pay attention to: 1) inclusive groups 2) environment	400 SPS guides, manuals and communication products developed and/or updated through STDF projects 240 with attention to inclusive groups & environment.	Quantitative	Review project reports to account for products developed/updated through projects	Annual	Project reports	Projects have the necessary expertise, resources, and stakeholder engagement to develop or update high-quality, inclusive, and environmentally relevant SPS materials.	Delays in implementation or lack of technical input may result in fewer, lower-quality, or less inclusive/environmentally relevant products.	Funding mechanism	This indicator targets products developed and/or updated through STDF projects and PPGs.
		I.R.1.4: Number of participants in online or physical STDF global	20,000 participants in x STDF (co)organized	Quantitative	Data will focus on number of participants in STDF organized	Annual	Secretariat administrative records, meeting	There is sustained interest and capacity	Limited connectivity, travel restrictions, or low awareness	Global platform	Global platform events include: external meetings

Logframe level	STDF Programme level indicators	Measurable indicators	Targets (2025-2030)	Type	Measurement method	Measurement frequency	Source	Assumptions	Risks	Relevant STDF Workstream(s)	Definitions/Notes
		platform events (disaggregated by type of meeting, location & inclusive groups).	events (including 10,000 inclusive groups and x public, x private sector representatives) in x regions/countries.		and co-organized events as well as events organized through projects/PPGs.		summaries, news items after meetings, n-drive Attendance lists, registration forms, and participation analytics from virtual platforms will be used to collect data. Project reports	among stakeholders to engage in STDF events across regions.	of events may reduce participation, especially among stakeholders in least developed countries or marginalized/inclusive groups.		- organized by STDF partners. - events organized or co-organized by STDF. - meetings of STDF practitioner groups. - STDF project meetings. - private sector roundtables. - regional links.
		I.R.1.5: Number of downloads of different types of knowledge and communication products from the website, disaggregated by region.	TBD	Quantitative	Web use tracking and analysis of Google Analytics stats (disaggregated by type of web pages, most frequently accessed/downloaded, etc.).	Annual	Google analytics data (individual knowledge pages, PG/PPG pages, etc.).	Target audiences are actively seeking and accessing STDF knowledge products to inform SPS-related work.	Low visibility of the website, limited knowledge of STDF or limited awareness of available resources may result in fewer downloads.	Knowledge work/Global platform	Types of knowledge and communication products refer to all individual resources published on STDF's website, including project documents, briefing notes, guides etc.
		I.R.1.6: Number of people reached through STDF social media channels (disaggregated by region).	TBD	Quantitative	Analytics from social media platforms (e.g. impressions, reach, and follower demographics). Disaggregation by region based on location data.	Annual	Social media analytics (YouTube channel, LinkedIn page)	Target audiences (e.g. SPS stakeholders, partners, developing countries actors etc.) are active on social media and regularly engage with STDF content.	Low engagement, limited internet access or reluctance to use social media may reduce the reach and visibility of STDF messages.	Global platform	Social media channels refer to STDF's YouTube channel and LinkedIn page.
Immediate Result 2 (I.R.2)	Output 2: Increased skills of national, regional and global stakeholders to use SPS	I.R.2.1: Number of public sector stakeholders trained on SPS good practices through PGs and PPGs (disaggregated by	10,000 representatives of x institutions x trained on x (including 3,000 inclusive groups in x	Quantitative	Training attendance records and participant profiles collected by STDF and PG/PPG implementing	Annual	Project/PPG documents	Relevant public sector agencies remain engaged and allocate staff to participate actively in training	High turnover in public institutions or lack of institutional commitment may limit the retention and practical application of	Funding mechanism	SPS good practices refer to guidance materials, tools, case studies, and other resources developed by the STDF and its partners, aimed at

Logframe level	STDF Programme level indicators	Measurable indicators	Targets (2025-2030)	Type	Measurement method	Measurement frequency	Source	Assumptions	Risks	Relevant STDF Workstream(s)	Definitions/Notes
	good practices and innovations	inclusive groups and region).	country/region).		partners and disaggregated by group and region.			sessions and apply the knowledge gained.	acquired SPS knowledge.		strengthening SPS capacities and promoting compliance with international standards.
		I.R.2.2: Number of private sector stakeholders trained on SPS good practices through PGs and PPGs (disaggregated by inclusive groups and region).	20,000 private sector actors trained on x (including x women and men in x country/region).	Quantitative	Training attendance records and participant profiles collected by STDF and PG/PPG implementing partners and disaggregated by group and region.	Annual	Project/PPG documents	Private sector stakeholders are willing and available to participate in SPS training sessions organized through PGs and PPGs.	Limited interest or availability of private sector actors, especially from inclusive groups or remote regions, may reduce participation and weaken impact.	Funding mechanism	SPS good practices and knowledge products refer to guidance materials, tools, case studies, and other resources developed by the STDF and its partners, aimed at strengthening SPS capacities and promoting compliance with international standards.
Immediate Result 3 (I.R.3)	Output 3: STDF's grants foster innovative and collaborative SPS capacity development	I.R.3.1: Number of STDF safe trade projects approved (disaggregated by gender/environment markers, sector and region).	36 PGs approved (14 with attention to gender/environment, x in x region and in x sector).	Quantitative	Review of records, project application documents	Annual	Project documents Working Group meeting reports	Ongoing demand for STDF PGs/PPGs funding.	Inadequate financial, human and time resources to approve projects.	Funding mechanism	Number of PGs and PPGs approved will be disaggregated by sector (i.e. food safety, plant health, animal health and cross-cutting) and region (Africa, Asia & Pacific, Latin America & Caribbean). In addition, number of PGs approved will be disaggregated based on their level of gender and environment mainstreaming based on scores provided through the markers as per the gender and environment action plans.
		I.R.3.2: Number of PPGs approved (disaggregated by sector and region).	36 PPGs approved (x in x region and in x sector).	Quantitative	Review of records, project application documents.	Annual	Project documents Working Group meeting reports	Sufficient quantity of eligible and high-quality applications.	Limited interest among developing country stakeholders in STDF's work.	Funding mechanism	
		I.R.3.3: Number and type of scalable innovations piloted through STDF PGs	x innovations piloted.	Qualitative	Review of records, project application documents.	Annual	Project documents	Resources (financial, expertise, time) for PGs/PPGs implementation are sufficient and appropriate.	Ongoing and/or new instability/insecurity in developing countries impacting delivery of STDF's work on the ground.	Funding mechanism	This indicator will do an inventory of scalable innovations piloted through the

Logframe level	STDF Programme level indicators	Measurable indicators	Targets (2025-2030)	Type	Measurement method	Measurement frequency	Source	Assumptions	Risks	Relevant STDF Workstream(s)	Definitions/Notes
		and PPGs, including attention to inclusive groups and environment .	List of innovations and details on innovations.					fund, applicants of PGs and PPGs favour innovative approaches to address their SPS challenges.	country/region to another.		STDF's funding mechanisms, including those paying attention to inclusive groups and environment . Innovations here include technology and digitalization, processes, as well as partnerships across different sectors and organizations (including government and the private sector).
		I.R.3.4: Number of PGs completed (disaggregated by sector and region).	25 PGs completed	Quantitative	Review of records, reports, Excel database	Annual	STDF Excel database	The implementation of PGs/PPGs proceeds according to schedule and without major disruptions.	External factors may delay implementation and lead to extensions, which in turn affect the number of PGs and PPGs completed in any given year.	Funding mechanism	Number of PGs completed will be disaggregated by sector (i.e. food safety, plant health, animal health and cross-cutting) and region (Africa, Asia & Pacific, Latin America & Caribbean). Number of PPGs completed will also be disaggregated by sector, region and by outputs - capacity evaluation tools, P-IMA, feasibility study and project proposal including those with attention to gender and environment .
		I.R.3.5: Number of PPGs completed (disaggregated by sector, region and PPGs outputs – capacity evaluation tools, P-IMA, feasibility study and project proposal including those with attention to gender and environment).	30 PPGs completed.	Quantitative	Review of records, reports, Excel database.	Annual	STDF Excel database			Funding mechanism	
Immediate Result 4 (I.R.4)	Output 4: Improved dialogue and cooperation among SPS stakeholders	I.R.4.1: Number and types of STDF events & meetings held per year (disaggregated by workstream). * *includes workshops, webinars, side	230 meetings organized or attended by the STDF Secretariat Including 115 considering cross-cutting issues.	Quantitative	Analysis of administrative records, Excel database, meeting summaries, STDF website, etc.	Annual	STDF events Excel file records	Ongoing interest and commitment of STDF members to engage actively during and between meetings. Adequate	Inadequate financial, human and time resources affect the organisation and attendance of events by STDF Secretariat.	Global platform	STDF meetings include meetings of the Working Group, meetings of practitioner groups convened on specific STDF knowledge topics (e-certification, PPPs, P-IMA, etc.)

Logframe level	STDF Programme level indicators	Measurable indicators	Targets (2025-2030)	Type	Measurement method	Measurement frequency	Source	Assumptions	Risks	Relevant STDF Workstream(s)	Definitions/Notes
		events on specific topics also organized through PGs/PPGs including those considering/reflecting on cross-cutting issues .						financial, human and time resources to convene meetings and other events.			as well as other events, workshops, webinars, side events on specific topics (knowledge work, PGs/PPGs) and on the margins of the SPS committee meetings.
		I.R.4.2: Number and types of Members participating in STDF's WG (disaggregated by gender , sector (public/private) and type of institutions).	40 members in STDF's WG (including 20 women, x donors, x partners, x private sector).	Quantitative	Direct observation, estimation, participants' lists (disaggregated by location, type of participants, gender).	Annual	WG meeting documents	Working Group Members have continued interest and see the relevance of attending and interacting during WG meetings.	Limited resources and time affect members' participation to WG meetings.	Global platform	Members participating in the STDF's WG will be disaggregated by gender, whether members are representing public or private sector and type of institutions: donor, founding partner, implementing partner, country partner, other partners.
		I.R.4.3: Number and types of Members of STDF's practitioner groups (disaggregated by gender , topics, sector (public/private) and type of institutions).	40 members in PPP practitioner group (including x public sector, x private sector, x partners). 40 members in digitalization practitioner group (including x public sector, x private sector, x partners). 40 members in innovation and scaling practitioner group (including x public sector, x	Quantitative	Direct observation, estimation, participants' lists (disaggregated by location, type of participants, gender).	Annual	Practitioner group meeting documents	Practitioner groups continue to get traction and members continue to engage.	Members' engagement decreases in view of other competing priorities. Relevance of topics covered by practitioner groups not deemed important anymore.	Knowledge work/Global Platform	Concerned practitioner groups will be those identified in the annual workplan of the STDF as approved by the Working Group. The disaggregation by topic will help specify the focus of the practitioner groups covered in a given reporting year. Members will be disaggregated by gender, by whether they represent the public or private sector, and by type of institution: donor, founding partner, implementing partner, country

Logframe level	STDF Programme level indicators	Measurable indicators	Targets (2025-2030)	Type	Measurement method	Measurement frequency	Source	Assumptions	Risks	Relevant STDF Workstream(s)	Definitions/Notes
			private sector, x partners). Total 120 members including 60 inclusive groups.								partner, other partner.
		I.R.4.4: Level of satisfaction among key STDF stakeholders with STDF's work.	At least 30 survey respondents, including 15 women, report being satisfied with STDF's work.	Quantitative	Analysis of anonymous survey responses collected from the Working Group during its second annual meeting.	Annual	WG surveys	Working Group Members have continued interest and see the relevance of attending and interacting during WG meetings.	Survey fatigue leads to lower response rate. Lower participation by Working Group Members and interaction during meetings affect the number of survey responses.	Global Platform	The survey will include both closed and open-ended questions to capture quantitative ratings and qualitative feedback on STDF's work, including relevance, effectiveness, perceived results, usefulness of Working Group meetings, and any new collaborative initiatives supported through the STDF. Data will be aggregated, analysed for trends and insights, and used to inform programme-level learning, planning, and reporting. Findings will also help guide improvements in stakeholder engagement and knowledge-sharing activities.